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ARAB TIMES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

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18 PAGES 150 FILS

Soviets await Saudi move on ties

KUWAIT, April 11. (Reuter): The Soviet Union is waiting for a signal from Saudi Arabia to resume diplomatic relations suspended over half a century ago, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov was quoted today as saying.

"There are contacts and relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and Moscow is ready at any time to exchange ambassadors and is only waiting for a clear signal from

Saudi Arabia to achieve this step," he told a Kuwaiti daily in an interview in London.

"In any case, our relations with them are improving, if gradually," he added.

In 1958 Riyadh asked Moscow to withdraw its consul-general after he had converted to Islam and started preaching an extreme form of the faith. He left the kingdom and was never heard of again.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are the only two countries in the Arab world not to have

diplomatic relations with the communist state.

Saudi Arabia has insisted the Soviet Union must withdraw from Afghanistan before the question of ties could be discussed. The Soviet withdrawal was completed in February.

Over the past year the two countries have had a number of high level contacts. In November the kingdom hosted negotiations between the Soviet Union and Afghan mujahideen leaders.

Rafsanjani tipped as Iran's next president

NICOSIA, April 11. (Reuter): An Iranian newspaper today tipped parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as the man most likely to win presidential elections due by August.

"If Rafsanjani decides to run in the elections, most probably he will win," an editorial in the Tehran Times said.

Iran's official IRNA news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the English-language newspaper as saying his chances of victory had been enhanced by the backing of a leading group of Tehran-based radical clergymen.

It said the secretary of the combatant clergymen group, Ruhaniyat-e-Mobarez, had endorsed Rafsanjani's candidature.

Secretary Mehdi Karroubi, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, said Rafsanjani was their candidate, the newspaper, which reflects Foreign Ministry views, said.

"It is evident that the other opposition wing in the country, the Ruhaniyat-e-Mobarez association, will also support Rafsanjani's candidacy," the newspaper said.

President Ali Khamenei, who

said Rafsanjani would be the set suitable candidate to succeed him, is a member of the each conservative Ruhaniyat-e-

In some association.

In the void for militant Ruhaniyat-e-Mobarez away from the Li in the year ago in the world champion parliamentary election, though she is still first elected the world, 1981, will have come.

It was in office this woman's barbary by law from a Chinese three term.

In the name it looks Yoo Nam ill have to stand for the Hwa of Sky. No other major can Yugoslav so far emerged and Zora!

IOC shuffle in Chirnilla Army to VILLA

April 11. (Agencies): Tai Armed Forces Chief-of-Gen. Renato de Villa yesterday announced the reassignment of 16 generals, one flag Apri and 16 colonels, the first large-scale reshuffle in the 6,000-strong Philippines military since 1986.

Meanwhile, President Corazon Aquino said today she is studying a proposal to allow former President Ferdinand Marcos to come home from exile if he apologises and returns billions of dollars he allegedly stole during his 20-year rule.

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Israeli medics try to revive Shawish after he was shot. Shawish died in the attack. (Reuter wirephoto)

Jewish radical kills Palestinian

Al Aqsa restrictions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

April 11. (Agencies): A Jewish extremist group claimed responsibility for a submachine-gun attack that killed one Palestinian and wounded three as they rested beside a wall in Jerusalem's old city after a religious fast.

The killer, dressed in Army fatigues and believed to be an Israeli, fired an Uzi at his victims yesterday from a distance of about five yards. He escaped on foot before police arrived at the scene near the old city's Jaffa gate.

Much of the old city and surrounding Arab East Jerusalem were shut down by a general strike this morning after youths went from one store to another urging merchants to close in protest over the slaying. A general strike also virtually closed the occupied Gaza Strip, where leaflets from Muslim fundamentalist Hamas (zeal) movement urged a protest against the deportation of more than 40 Palestinians by Israel during the 16-month Arab uprising.

Those Muslims permitted inside will have to give police their identity cards when entering and pick them up after services. In addition, the number of police will be increased, the spokesman said.

Two Palestinian teenagers were shot and wounded today in clashes with soldiers in the besieged strip, hospital officials said.

One of the victims, waiter Mahmoud Zahdeh, 20, spoke with reporters from his bed at the Mukassed Hospital and specifically mentioned the attacker wore a uniform but no hat.

Zahdeh suffered five bullet wounds in the shoulders, left leg and scalp.

In Jerusalem, police deployed extra forces in the old city, and

US seeks support for Shamir's peace plan

WASHINGTON, April 11. (Agencies): The United States is asking its allies and Arab states to help advance an Israeli proposal to allow Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, a senior US official said yesterday.

The proposal, outlined by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when he met President Bush last week, would enable Palestinians to elect negotiators to peace talks with Israel.

Leading activists among the 1.7 million Palestinians of the territories already have rejected Shamir's proposal, saying it tries to circumvent Yasser Arafat's PLO.

Arafat has said the Palestinian uprising will continue till final victory and has called for the convening of an international conference to solve the Mideast problem.

The senior administration official said Washington, which began low-level contacts with the PLO in December, would focus on trying to sell the Israeli proposal to its allies and Arab states as a first step towards Middle East peace.

"We are asking everyone else — Arab states and our allies — to give us a chance to develop this. There's something here that needs to be developed and this has potential and should be developed," the official told reporters.

Israeli officials said they expected the administration would send a special envoy to the (Continued on Page 5 Col. 1)



(Continued on Page 5 Col. 1)

Earthquake hits Kuril islands

MOSCOW, April 11. (AP): A strong earthquake shook the sparsely populated Kuril islands of the Soviet far east and the Kamchatka peninsula today, but no injuries or damage were reported, Soviet officials said.

The earthquake registered between 7-8 points on the 12-point Soviet scale in the Kuril islands, said Yulia Krasnopeeva.

All 22 aboard French plane die in Alps crash

COL TOURNIOL, France, April 11. (Reuter): All 22 people aboard a French airliner were killed when it crashed into a mountain in the French Alps last night, rescuers said.

The Europe Aero Service (EAS) Fokker-27 was on a scheduled flight from Paris to Valence in southeast France when it crashed about 25 km (14 miles) from its destination. Police said a West German technician was among the dead. The rest, including four young children returning to Valence after Easter holidays, were believed to be French.

French Transport Minister Michel Delebarre was expected at the scene this morning and a legal inquiry has already begun, police said.

The cause of the crash would not be known until the aircraft's flight recorders had been found and examined, but police said it was unusual for pilots to fly over the mountain range as they

prepared to land at Valence airport.

Rescuers were still bringing bodies down the mountain as dawn broke today. A temporary mortuary was set up in a church in a nearby village.

EAS had chartered the 42-seater Fokker-27 from the UNI Air company for its twice-daily service between Paris' Orly airport and Valence.

DAY BY DAY

GOVERNMENTS all over the world refund customs duties paid on imported goods meant for re-export.

This system of refund of customs duty applies even to goods purchased from commercial shops — if they are to be exported.

What we now desire in Kuwait is to have this system of refunds applied to re-exports — particularly large quantities and not on small individual purchases as the latter will create disruptions at this stage.

In all frankness, though, nothing can be disrupted if there is a strong will.

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Assets probe gears up as Kuwait eyes financial role

Salem defends settlement scheme, urges banks to lend

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

seven borrowers had already been prosecuted in the last three months and warned that charges will be filed against others if they have not disclosed all their assets.

Sheikh Salem also revealed that the Central Bank is preparing to loosen its control of the banking system, but urged the banks to provide more balance sheet information to disclose their financial status.

Speaking of the proposal to develop a versatile financial market in Kuwait Sheikh Salem said that despite the limited capacity of the Kuwaiti market to absorb new funds there is ample room for many more investment instruments.

The Central Bank in January appointed an eight-man committee to examine the market potential for the scheme and they will report back by the end of May.

The investigation and prosecution marks the beginning of the second phase to solve the Souq Al Manakh crisis which left the banks with billions of dinars worth of bad debts and paralysed business of hundreds of borrowers.

Despite widespread criticism of the resettlement plan Sheikh Salem defended the programme as it was executed calling it an unqualified success.

He did however say that the settlement scheme was not law and can be amended promising that the Central Bank will maintain flexibility in implementing the scheme.

The slow pace of progress in the scheme has made the banks reluctant to lend. He called on the banks and borrowers to work together and said that banks which have received financial support from the Central Bank will continue to grant loans for feasible projects.

He denied a contention by the private sector that the local banks prefer to invest abroad instead of lending on the domestic market.

Sheikh Salem reports that 1,241 borrowers with a negative net worth and debts of KD2.08 billion were complying with the settlement scheme.

Police said no casualties were reported from the brief Syrian artillery barrage against the deserted town of Souk El Gharr lying 15 miles (24 Kilometres) southeast of Beirut atop a network of roads leading to the Christian heartland.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in fine with standing rules, said "there was no response from the Christian side to the barrage."

Shells fired by Aoun's mostly Christian troops and by Syrian Army gunners exploded in Christian and Muslim districts yesterday, killing two people and wounding 15.

Syria and its Muslim and leftist Lebanese allies support efforts by a six-member Arab League mediation committee to end the 14-year civil war between Christians and Muslims.

The Arab League committee will meet Lebanese Christian leaders in Kuwait within a week, the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said yesterday.

The agency quoted Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who heads the committee, as saying the meeting would be the last of five with Lebanese political and religious leaders. In Tunis, a League spokesman said the meeting would be on Wednesday.

An authoritative source told KUNA that the committee and the Christian Lebanese Front's representatives will hold a meeting tomorrow.

Sheikh Salem is confident that (Continued on Page 7 Col. 1)

What we now desire in Kuwait is to have this system of refunds applied to re-exports — particularly large quantities and not on small individual purchases as the latter will create disruptions at this stage.

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Zahed Matar

Anne's marriage 'on the rocks'

LONDON, April 11, (AP): News that an aide to the Queen wrote personal letters to Princess Anne has prompted more page one speculation that Anne's marriage is on the rocks. But her father-in-law denied the marriage has broken down.

Anne herself, the 38-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, smiled yesterday through a typically busy schedule of engagements.

As Scotland Yard investigated the theft of the letters from the Princess' desk at Buckingham Palace, Britain's tabloids questioned in banner headlines

Personal letters to Princess stolen

whether her 15-year marriage to fellow equestrian Mark Phillips would survive.

"Can this marriage be saved?" asked the Daily Mail. "Anne divorce crisis at palace," said Today. "Royal marriage crisis: Anne sad, shattered, alone," trumpeted the Daily Mirror.

Maj. Peter Phillips, Anne's 68-year-old father-in-law, denied the marriage was washed up. He told reporters: "It's not the sort of marriage that ordinary people would understand at all — they

spend so much time away from one another.

"If people are royal, they don't necessarily spend lots of time together. It's inevitable. Princess Anne and Mark come together and they part, doing the various jobs which they have got to do."

"One does not inquire about when they last got together ... of course their marriage is very unusual."

Phillips added, "Mark rang me last night (Sunday) ... he would confide in me if there was

anything wrong but all the conversation was about horses ... the marriage side of things was not discussed at all."

The three principals at the heart of the speculation remained silent on the subject.

Anne appeared in a happy mood as she carried out a busy schedule of activities in north-west England concluding opening a \$68-million shopping centre in Liverpool.

Margaret Maguire, a shopper who talked with Anne, said later,

"she is beautiful — a credit to her country. It is her own life and the press should leave her alone."

Phillips, a 40-year-old com-moner and former captain in the Queen's Dragoon Guards, spent yesterday at the couple's Gat-comber Park estate in western England.

Royal Navy Cmdr. Timothy Laurence, the 34-year-old bachelor who wrote the stolen letters, was at Windsor Castle, continuing with his normal duties as an equerry, or aide, to the Queen, Buckingham Palace said.



Princess Anne (right) smiles during an official visit to Liverpool. (Reuter wirephoto)

Rajiv orders probe into leak of murder report

NEW DELHI, April 11, (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declared yesterday that his government will investigate the leak of a secret report into the 1984 assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi.

Parliament initially withheld the report on the assassination of the former prime minister. But on March 14 parts of the classified report were published in the English-language newspaper Indian Express.

"The leak has not come from us (government)," Rajiv told the Lower House of Parliament. "We will institute an inquiry to find out the source of the leak. Those who had revealed the report had violated the oath of secrecy and flouted the will of the house."

In a political storm that followed the March 14 disclosures, Rajiv released two volumes of the report March 27. Those suggested that Indira's longtime personal secretary, Rajendra Kumar Dhawan, was involved in the assassination.

Indira was shot and killed by two Sikh bodyguards on Oct. 31, 1984, at her New Delhi residence.

The government said Dhawan had been exonerated.

The report accused Dhawan of facilitating the assassination by countering an order to remove all Sikhs from the inner security circle, approving shift changes for one of the assassins and keeping secret instructions concerning Indira's security.



Residents of Tbilisi watch armoured cars and troops (right) after the Army was called in to quell the unrest. (Reuter wirephoto)

SWAPO rebels yet to leave Namibia

WINDHOEK, Namibia, April 11, (AP): Police said today that SWAPO guerrillas did not appear to be leaving Namibia despite orders from their exiled leader and guarantees of safe passage intended to rescue a United Nations independence plan for the South African territory.

The guerrillas' appearance in Namibia April 11, the day a ceasefire was to go into effect, touched off several days of fierce fighting and nearly nullified the UN accord under which the ceasefire was one step in a year-

long independence process.

Chief inspector Kierie du Rand of Namibia's paramilitary police reported "a few skirmishes" with guerrillas.

Du Rand said casualties in the fighting that broke out April 1, rose to 265 guerrillas and 28 security-force members killed, thirteen guerrillas have been captured.

"About 10 small groups of three to seven men each have crossed into Angola since Sunday, but that could be to re-supply themselves or to rest," Du Rand said.

Colombo sets up reception centres for militants

COLOMBO, April 11, (AP): The government has named 228 centres it would set up across the country to receive Sinhalese and Tamil militants willing to give up arms during a weeklong ceasefire and amnesty ordered by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The reception centres will be located in schools, Buddhist temples, government offices and Army camps across the country, and will be manned by civilians, a senior official said.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the ceasefire would begin on Wednesday and the

military would suspend special operations launched against militants.

Troops would remain on alert to avert violence during the period, Wijeratne said.

Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister, said President Premadasa announced the suspension of military activities and establishment of reception centres for militants surrendering arms on April 2.

According to Wijeratne, 104 militants surrendered before the centres were set up.

Radiation fear? 'Sunken Soviet sub may explode'

COPENHAGEN, April 11, (Agencies): The Greenpeace environmental group said yesterday that the Soviet nuclear-powered submarine which sank in the Norwegian Sea could explode and spread radioactive contamination.

The environmentalists group dismissed assurances by Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev that the reactors were safe, and said the submarine could be a "killing environmental bomb."

"If the coolant in the two nuclear reactors on board the sunken Soviet submarine come in contact with sea water, there will be an explosion," Greenpeace said in a statement telecast to news agencies.

Greenpeace said the ship's reactors used a fluid metal, probably sodium, as a coolant. It asked the Soviet embassy in Copenhagen for precise information about the reactor system and about the two nuclear warheads the Soviets have said were on the vessel.

"If the sodium comes in contact with sea water, there will be a violent chemical reaction, which produces hydrogen. The two reactors are unlikely to withstand the pressure of such a reaction," the statement said.

Sea water eventually will seep into the reactors, it said, and the environmental consequences will be immeasurable.

Greenpeace estimated the reactors contained 100-200 kilogrammes (220-440 pounds) of highly radioactive uranium, and a total of 20 kilogrammes (44 pounds) of plutonium from the warheads mounted on torpedoes.

Friday's accident was the first sinking of a metal-cooled nuclear submarine, according to Greenpeace. The Soviet Union has six more metal-cooled vessels in its northern fleet.

Naval experts today studied the logs from the submarine that the Soviet Defence Ministry said may have sustained cracks to its hull as it sank off the Norwegian coast with two nuclear-armed torpedoes aboard.

Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov told the Izvestia newspaper yesterday that a preliminary investigation showed the fire that caused the sub to sink in the Norwegian Sea last Friday appeared to have been caused by an electrical short circuit. Officials said 42 sailors died in the accident.

But Yazov repeated assurances given earlier yesterday by government spokesman Genady Gerasimov that there was no danger of radioactive contamination.

The Sapo security police force has been under fire after allegations that it carried out illegal eavesdropping in the hunt for the killer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Tbilisi mourns unrest deaths

Shevardnadze visits Georgia

MOSCOW, April 11, (AP): The Georgian capital Tbilisi was draped in black and radio and television station broadcast somber music today to mourn the deaths of at least 19 people killed in ethnic turmoil.

"Everyone's suffering. Many are not working because everyone feels terrible and can't come to their senses," said Nana Natadze, the wife of a Georgian nationalist activist.

Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, an ethnic Georgian, went to his home republic to help quell the unrest. He met today with workers, according to an official of the Georgian news agency Gruzinform. The official had no details of the session.

Today was declared a day of mourning to mark what Georgian Communist Party leader Dzhumabek Patashvili called "a common grief" — the deaths of civilians killed in a clash on Sunday with soldiers and police at a pro-independence demonstration.

Dr David Lazarishvili, an anaesthetist at the Central Republic Hospital in Tbilisi, said a 32-year-old man died this morning in the death toll from the confrontation to at least 19, although he said he heard unconfirmed reports of as many as 50 deaths.

Cars and trolleybuses were adorned with black flags and people wore black clothes and ribbons, Natadze said in a telephone interview from Tbilisi, a city of 1.2 million people 900 miles (1,450 kilometres) southeast of Moscow.

"Everything is black," she said.

Tanks, armoured personnel carriers and soldiers patrolled the streets to enforce a ban on public gatherings and an overnight curfew.

Georgian radio and TV cancelled regular programmes to play funeral music and report news, said Nanuli Gogua, another Tbilisi resident whose daughter, Irina Sarishvili, was among half-dozen Georgian activists arrested over the weekend. All entertainment activities were called off, said the deputy director of the official Georgian news agency. He declined to give his name.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Genady I. Gerasimov told reporters yesterday that 17 or 18 people had been killed and 100 people injured when they were trampled. According to official and unofficial reports, the dead included 12 women and seven men.

In a report on the evening TV news programme "Vremya," Patashvili said no one expected fatalities when troops armed with clubs and shields were ordered to clear demonstrators from Tbilisi's main street.

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Haiti rebel hijackers surrender in Miami

MIAMI, April 11, (Agencies): Two soldiers firing guns in the air hijacked a plane in Haiti yesterday and ordered the pilot to fly them and seven passengers to Miami, where they surrendered, authorities said.

The Cessna 402, owned by Mission Aviation Fellowship of Redlands, California, was hijacked at 11:15 am (1515 GMT), FBI agent William A. Gavin said. The plane, which had been scheduled to fly to Fort Lauderdale executive airport, landed about 2:25 pm (1825 GMT) at Miami international airport where the hijackers surrendered.

Georgian radio and TV cancelled regular programmes to play funeral music and report news, said Nanuli Gogua, another Tbilisi resident whose daughter, Irina Sarishvili, was among half-dozen Georgian activists arrested over the weekend. All entertainment activities were called off, said the deputy director of the official Georgian news agency.

There were no reports of injuries, and FBI agents were interrogating the hijackers, identified as Fadadel Milord, 29, of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, a member of the armed forces of Haiti, and Guillame Berioza, 25, Port-Au-Prince, a sergeant in the Haitian Army.

The hijacking took place at the departure ramp at the Haitian international airport "when the two men burst onto the ramp firing their weapons in the air and forcing the (pilot) to depart immediately," said Donna Burns, a spokeswoman for Mission Aviation, a Christian group



Avril

that provides humanitarian aid to Third World countries.

In Port-Au-Prince, President

Priest Avril said seven people died and 75 were wounded when his presidential guard put down a revolt by soldiers of the Desalines barracks.

Avril, whose 6-month-old government has been shaken by two recent uprisings apparently triggered by a crackdown on drug trafficking, refrained yesterday from predicting Haiti's future, saying, "I don't know how tomorrow will be."

A state of emergency and a dusk-to-dawn curfew would continue for at least the next three days, Avril said in his first news conference since the second revolt began last week.

Four nurses detained for killing patients

VIENNA, April 11, (AP): Four nurses detained in connection with an investigation into the largest suspected murder series in post-war Austria have admitted to killing 49 hospital patients, police said yesterday.

Vienna police chief Guenter Boegl said the nurses at Lainz hospital in the capital said their principal motive was to induce a painless death in people suffering incurable, painful diseases.

Senior police official Franz

Priessnitz earlier told Austrian television that among the victims considered disagreeable.

"But the fact that they were most seriously ill always played a role," the official said.

One of the suspects confessed to killing 39 patients, authorities disclosed during a late last night televised panel. Another police spokesman told the Associated Press that a second suspect had confessed to killing five patients, one of them with water.

During the same television programme, Max Edelbacher, a senior police official involved in the investigation, said that "a wider circle" of people, apparently nurses, knew of the murders, but he did not elaborate.

Initial reports from the hospital said the killings took place over the past year, but police have not publicly identified a specific period.

School children buy World War I shells

RAMSGATE, England, April 11, (AP): A group of British schoolchildren returned home on Sunday from a visit to Belgium with two World War I shells and two fragmentation grenades purchased from a stall near a museum in Ypres.

The weapons, which had travelled on a ferry with 550 passengers, were handed over by a teacher who took them from two boys aged 13 and 14.

The shells weighed 18 pounds (8 kilograms) each.

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INTERNATIONAL

20 fold increase Fighting drugs in D.C.; 3m guns in US

WASHINGTON, April 11, (Agencies): US drug policy director William Bennett announced yesterday a multimillion-dollar effort to reduce drug-related crime in the nation's capital.

"Already in the first four months of 1989 the city has seen 135 new murders," Bennett told a news conference. "And that problem is getting worse, not better."

Under the plan, approved yesterday by US President George Bush, the Federal Bureau of Prisons will immediately accept 250 prisoners housed in the Washington city jail, a 500-bed pre-trial detention facility will be built within one year and a 700-bed federal prison will be constructed for the Washington-Baltimore area.

A Washington-area Drug Task Force will get an additional 57 federal, state and local investigators under the plan, including 25 FBI agents and 11 Drug Enforcement Administration agents.

Five Defence Department intelligence analysts also will be assigned to the task force, which will concentrate on identifying distributions of crack, the cheap, smokable form of cocaine, in the Washington area.

The effort will cost \$70 million to \$80 million, Bennett said.

Bennett said the plan should not be considered "an assault on the principle of home rule," but he criticised the district of Columbia government's handling of the problem of drug-related violence.

"The plain fact is that, for too long and in too many respects, the D.C. government has failed to serve its citizens," Bennett said.

He noted that Congress appropriated \$50 million three years ago for a new detention facility in Washington, but construction still hasn't started.

As a result, he said, "thousands of people arrested for drug and other serious crimes in the city regularly go free."

Firearms

Meanwhile, a US firearms official estimated yesterday there were up to three million illegal rifles in the US and a million more awaiting licensing for import.

Daniel Hartnett, associate director of law enforcement for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), told the House trade subcommittee about 621,000 of the rapid-firing weapons had cleared most of the import licensing procedure and 305,000 more import applications were being processed.

On March 14 the BATF temporarily suspended import of some types of semi-automatic rifles that can be converted to fully automatic fire, including the AK-47 and Uzi carbines, and Bush has since expanded the suspension to include 24 more semi-automatic weapons.

It was a Chinese-made AK-47 that a gunman used in Stockton, California, last January 17 to fire more than 100 rounds in less than two minutes into a schoolground — killing five and injuring 29 children and one teacher before killing himself.

There has been a mounting demand to curb assault weapons on the basis they are popular among drug traffickers, but the prospect of an outright ban has stimulated sales.

Several pieces of proposed legislation to impose permanent curbs on the weapons are pending before congress.

The United Nations top crime prevention official said yesterday only trade in weapons exceeds the value of illicit drug trafficking and international terrorist incidents have increased more than twentyfold in the last two decades.

"The value of the illicit trafficking in drugs has surpassed that of trade in oil, and is second only to armaments," said Margaret Anstee, secretary-general of the eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

International terrorist incidents have increased from 125 in 1968 to 2,905 in 1987, Anstee said.

"Only a collective and effective response can make inroads into the seemingly intractable contemporary crime situation," Anstee told the 48 delegates from 16 countries who are meeting for four days at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to prepare for the congress.

The congress aims to help UN member states to reduce criminality, foster viable crime prevention and criminal justice policies, set basic standards for the administration of justice, and promote the humane and effective treatment of offenders and victims.

Texas scientists duplicate part of fusion experiment

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, April 11, (AP): Texas A and M University and Georgia Tech researchers say they believe they have duplicated a Utah experiment that produced nuclear fusion using basic chemistry.

Texas A and M's experiment generated energy, but chemists

Charles Martin, Kenneth Marsh and Bruce Gammon said yesterday they were not sure if it resulted from fusion.

The University of Utah scientists who first claimed the result, however, backed up their colleagues' work.

The Texas A and M reaction was detected early Saturday and

came after more than two weeks of intense work to duplicate the Utah research, the chemists said.

"The excess energy aspect has been confirmed," said Martin, 35, an electro-chemist. But the reaction was so small the scientists did not have equipment sophisticated enough to detect the production of neutrons that

would certify the reaction as fusion, he said.

Fusion occurs when the nuclei of atoms join together, releasing energy.

"This is a very unusual result and we have not totally dismissed the possibility of some unusual chemical process which we might

have not accounted for and we are currently exploring this possibility further," Martin said.

But while Texas A and M's research focused on the energy produced by the process, Georgia Tech's weekend experiment looked for neutrons — and found them. A probe which measured 40 neutrons an hour of

normal background radiation measured 600 an hour during the experiment.

"We think we've confirmed the Utah experiment to prove 'cold fusion,'" senior research scientist James Mahaffey told a news conference in Atlanta following Texas A and M's announcement.



Clown takes rest

Snowflake the clown, alias Dr Richard Snowberg, an associate professor at Wisconsin University, USA, takes a break from activities during the last day of the 5th International Clown Convention held in Bognor Regis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stunt on British bridge

BRISTOL, England, April 11, (Reuter): A climbing stunt by members of a Daredevils Club trying to abseil down the huge Severn bridge caused multiple car crashes, jammed traffic and made a rescue helicopter take off.

Police said distracted drivers collided in two pile-ups — one involving seven cars, the other four — and a woman was injured on Sunday as four members of the Britain's dangerous sports club slid 200 feet (65 metres) down ropes to a speedboat waiting on the River Severn.

The crashes backed up traffic for five miles (eight km), waiting to cross the suspension bridge which links England and Wales.

New method of cardiac surgery

LONDON, April 11, (KUNA): Heart transplant pioneer Magdi Yacoub and a team of London surgeons are working on a new operation which could revolutionise cardiac surgery, it was reported here yesterday.

It involves detaching muscles from the patient's chest wall and wrapping it around the main blood vessel supplying the heart.

A cardiac pacemaker is then installed to stimulate the muscle to contract in time with the patient's heartbeat.

British medical experts announced yesterday that so far the operation has been tried only on animals, but has proved so successful that trials on human patients are likely soon.

Singer detained in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 11, (AP): Singer-actress Grace Jones is in jail after being arrested over the weekend for possession of cocaine, police said yesterday.

They said the Jamaican-born Jones, 37, who became a movie star playing opposite Roger Moore in the James Bond film "A View to a Kill," was taken into custody on Saturday at the home of a friend, caterer/raiser Chris Stanley.

A police report said a powdery substance believed to be cocaine was found in her handbag. It was wrapped in two Jamaican 2-dollar currency notes.

The police did not say precisely how much cocaine was found.

The arrest was made in the Kingston suburb of Stony Hill, where Jones was vacationing. She was being held in the police lockup there and was scheduled for hearing today at Stony Hill resident magistrate's court.

Police kill disturbed man

NEW YORK, April 11, (AP): An emotionally disturbed man screaming "I'm going to kill you" swung a machete at pedestrians and police on a crowded midtown Manhattan street before an officer shot and killed him, police said yesterday.

Four police officers and a sergeant tried to stop the man by spraying mace and shooting him with a stun gun but both failed to slow him down, said police inspector James McCabe.

McCabe said officers used "ultimate restraint" but were unable to force the man to drop his weapon.

"They all did cartwheels to prevent having to shoot him," said officer Richard O'Neill of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. "The guy just wanted to die and nothing was going to stop him."

8 die as police retake prison in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 11, (AP): Heavily armed Brazilian police stormed mutinous prison inmates, killing six of them and freeing about 150 hostages yesterday afternoon, authorities said.

Two policemen also were killed in the assault.

Moacir Mendes dos Santos, spokesman with the state secretary for public security, said.

At least 20 police and prisoners were hurt, he said, adding that he had no information on the condition of the hostages.

"The police entered firing as negotiations had failed," Dos Santos said of the assault on Carumbe in Cuiba.

Prisoners defended themselves with knives, clubs

'First light' a milestone

Chemical laser test successful

WASHINGTON, April 11, (AP): A high-power chemical laser developed for the space-based missile defence programme has been successfully tested for the first time in a vacuum chamber simulating the conditions of space, the government said yesterday.

The test, described as "a major milestone" by the US Defence Department, was conducted Friday at a special facility in San Juan Capistrano, California.

While the so-called alpha laser generated a laser beam for only one-fifth of a second, the initial "first light" test was sufficient to verify the theoretical calculations that were made in design-

ing the device, said Neil Griff, the programme manager for chemical lasers with the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation.

The Strategic Defence Initiative is the formal name for the US government's planned space-based missile-defence system.

The alpha device has long been described as the Defense Department's most promising technology for a small, lightweight laser that could be built with enough power to operate as a weapon in space.

"This is the first time we have demonstrated a laser that we believe is scaleable (in power) to meet SDI requirements," Griff added yesterday.

The Magellan mission, scheduled for launch on board the space shuttle Atlantis on April 23, will be the first trip into deep space for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in more than a decade.

It will also be the first US deep space mission to rely for its initial launch on a spacecraft that can be used again. Previous such US missions have used non-recoverable rockets.

Five days after being put into earth orbit by the Atlantis, Magellan's rockets will send it on a 15-month voyage towards Venus.

Venus, often called the evening star because it can easily be seen in the night sky with the naked eye, is earth's nearest planetary neighbour.

It orbits the sun at a distance of 67 million miles (107.2 million km) while the earth's orbit is 93 million miles (148.8 million km) from the sun.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to say yesterday how many instances of failure to report gifts had been identified by the panel.

But the number could easily be in the dozens, because several benefits Wright received continued over a period of years and would have had to be reported on each year's financial disclosure statement. Among the benefits under scrutiny are the powerful Democratic legislator's virtually free use of a condominium in Texas, an \$18,000 salary for his wife Betty, and use of a 1979 Cadillac.

CBS News reported yesterday that the committee had found 30 instances of possible rules violations by Wright.

NSA role in computer security questioned

WASHINGTON, April 11, (AP): A public interest group said yesterday that the National Security Agency, the nation's largest intelligence agency, could exert excessive control over a programme to strengthen the security of government computer systems.

The group, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, under key members of Congress to focus "particularly close scrutiny" on the agency's role in helping institute legislation to safeguard sensitive unclassified information in federal computers.

"There is a constant risk that federal agencies,

under the guise of enhancing computer security, may find their programmes — to the extent that they rely upon computer systems — increasingly under the supervision of the largest and most secretive intelligence organisation in the country," the group said.

In a letter sent to Congress, the group said that "the clandestine nature of the NSA, its classified budget, the difficulty in overseeing its activities, and its aggressive use of advanced technologies for eavesdropping and encryption and decryption of communications, raise serious concerns about its role" in implementing the computer security act.

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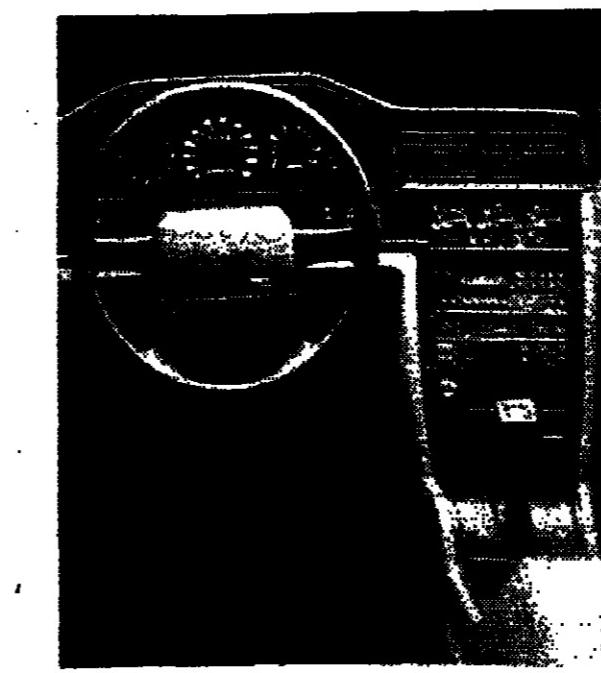
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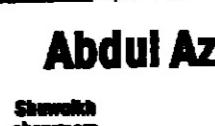
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Antiquities agreement

RIYADH, April 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Abdul Rahman Al Bakr yesterday conveyed his country's authorised document of the co-operation agreement in the field of preserving and renovating antiquities among the seven member states of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf states, a bureau handout said here today.

The document, signed by HH the Amir of Kuwait, was relayed by Ambassador Bakr to the bureau's director-general in the Saudi capital Dr Ali Bin Mohammed Al Tuwaijri.

The ambassador affirmed his country's unceasing support of the bureau, pointing out the positive role it plays toward realising unity and co-ordination among the region's states in the fields of science, culture and education.

Malaysian tourism

KUALA LUMPUR, April 11, (KUNA): Malaysia will send a 40-member team to the Gulf states in August to lure Arab tourists for the "Visit Malaysia Year 1990."

They will be away for 40 days meeting with Arab ministers, senior government officials, tour operators, businessmen and community leaders.

Led by the Culture and Tourism Minister Saburuddin Chik, the team will visit Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

Disclosing this to KUNA here yesterday, a spokesman for the Tourist Development Corporation (TDC) said this will be the biggest tourist promotion team ever from Malaysia to visit the Gulf states.

Saudi message

RIYADH, April 11, (KUNA): Saudi monarch King Fahd's envoy, Ali Al Shaer returned home early today following a brief visit to Yemen Arab Republic during which he delivered a message from the sovereign to President Ali Abdulla Saleh.

Shaer, the Saudi Information Minister, in a pre-departure statement in Sana'a told Saba News Agency, he is carrying a reply message to King Fahd from President Saleh.

The Saudi official further said that the message he conveyed last night to the President comes within consultations between King Fahd with his brothers, the Arab countries leaders on latest developments in the Arab world.

Body found

THE body of a 50-year-old stateless person was discovered at Abraq in Salmy on Friday.

According to a coroner's report, the dead man had been lying there for over a month.

Security investigations are in progress.

Handicapped being trained**14 special schools**

THE Special Education Department at the Ministry of Education now has a total of 14 schools serving more than 2,000 deaf, dumb, blind and mentally retarded students, according to Mohammed Al Hamidi, director of the department.

A specialised team of doctors and psychologists determines whether any given student will be admitted to one of the institutes, he said. Upon graduation, handicapped students can go on to work in any number of fields. The department is in constant contact with work managers in order to follow up on graduates now working at government and private establishments, he said.

Hamidi said that teachers at the special education institutes are highly motivated and qualified, even though they work on a volunteer basis for very low wages. He said such teachers should be encouraged by granting them better work allowances, and called for establishing a training institute for new teachers of the handicapped.

MPH disclaims cadet poisoning responsibility**Onus on municipality**

THE onus of responsibility for the recent food poisoning incident of cadets at the Police College has been disclaimed by the Ministry of Public Health.

In an interview with a local daily, Dr Nael Al Naqeeb, undersecretary at the ministry said the supervision of shops and catering companies falls within the jurisdiction of Kuwait Municipality and not within the legal responsibility of the Ministry of Public Health.

All cadets who had been affected after consuming contaminated food have been discharged from the ministry's hospitals and are reported to be in good condition, he added.

Bacteria
The reasons for the poisoning incident have been attributed to the "staphylococcus bacteria" present in the items of food consumed by the cadets at the iftar meal, according to Dr Rashed Al

Saad, director at the Ministry of Public Health.

He went to state that the reason for the food being contaminated is attributed to one of the workers who was afflicted with a bad cough and who was directly involved in the preparation of the consumables.

Medical testing

Though a large number of cadets were affected, fortunately, many did not suffer serious consequences and others did not need hospitalisation as they had spontaneously vomited the contents. Vomiting in such cases, constitutes the body's defensive mechanism process by which it rejects the microbe, Owaish said.

Dr Jafar Dawoud, head of Preventive Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health said that the ministry carried out a comprehensive medical test on the restaurant's workers.

12,400 visit visas issued

A TOTAL of 10,700 new residence and 12,400 visit visas were issued last month, according to a release issued by the Public Relations department at the Ministry of Interior.

The release also added that the immigration department also issued over 9,150 new work per-

More food sold this year**KD250 Ramadan average**

LOCAL consumers are buying more foodstuffs this year than in previous years, according to a number of merchants. Others, meanwhile, say the increase is due only to Ramadan.

One merchant said people are buying more because of the increased sense of political stability in the region. Another said the Amiri grant resulted in higher purchasing power for the average consumer.

But yet another merchant attributed the increase in food-buying to Ramadan-oriented commodities, saying that the purchasing power for essential goods has remained constant.

Increases have been noted this Ramadan in the consumption of macaroni, cream caramels, jello and nuts. Sources at the mutton market said the price of Arabian sheep has increased dramatically over the past two days, because of shortages caused by the slaughter of other types.

The average Kuwaiti family spends at least KD250 on popular Ramadan commodities, official sources say.

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| Saturday | AF159 | Dep. 09:05 | Arr. 14:30 | Saturday |

From Paris to Kuwait

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|------------|------------|----------|
| Monday | AF150 | Dep. 11:30 | Arr. 18:25 | Monday |
| Thursday | AF138 | Dep. 13:30 | Arr. 22:00 | Thursday |
| Friday | AF158 | Dep. 19:00 | Arr. 01:55 | Saturday |

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**Pakistani labour welcome in Kuwait: Awani****No apprehensions on restrictions**

ISLAMABAD, April 11, (KUNA): Pakistan Minister for Labour and Overseas Pakistanis, Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Awani, has said that Kuwaiti authorities have assured him that they will welcome Pakistani labour in Kuwait.

He told a news conference last evening on return from a tour of four Arab countries, including Libya, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for about ten days, said he had men-

tioned to Kuwaiti labour minister the apprehensions of Pakistani labour in Kuwait to restrict their recruitment in response.

Awani, who led a 3-member Pakistani manpower delegation to Libya, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for about ten days, said he had men-

with whom his delegation held "useful talks".

Other Kuwaiti ministers with whom Awani had discussions were Minister for Electricity and Water Hamoud Abdullah Al Rouhah, Minister for Communications Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan and Minister for Education Anwar Abdulrahman Al Nouri.

He said the Pakistani delega-

tion was also honoured by M.Z. The Amir of Kuwait and M.R. the Crown Prince and Premier by granting audience to the Pakistani delegation.

The Pakistan delegation, Awani said, also met prospective employers and investors including representatives of finance companies in Kuwait and had useful discussions with them.

Crooked doctor to be prosecuted

A DOCTOR recently apprehended for accepting a bribe from a patient has been referred to the General Prosecution.

Speaking to Al Sayyah, Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdur Razzaq said that corrupt doctors could be found anywhere. This in no way should adversely reflect on the integrity and dedication of the numerous doctors employed within the state.

He added that all practicing doctors had taken an oath to uphold their human mission with utter loyalty and honesty.

The ministry constantly strives to instill in their staff the need for optimal performance of their duties, honest in their dealings with patients and constantly upgrading their medical expertise.

He added that the ministry would spare no effort to punish the guilty and corrupt, and to arrange for the enforcement of procedural liabilities.

He expressed the ministry's appreciation of all constructive criticism, through which, he emphasised, the ministry could further develop its services and optimise performance.

Kuwaiti cultural exhibition

TUNIS, April 11, (KUNA): The cultural bureau at the Kuwait Embassy in Tunis will hold tomorrow, a Kuwaiti cultural exhibition.

The cultural attache at the Kuwait Embassy here Taleb Al Baghi told Kuwait News Agency yesterday that the exhibition, which will last until April 18, demonstrates of paintings by Kuwaiti students aged between 9 and 11 years that depict Kuwaiti cultural heritages.

Dependence on expatriates to be reduced**Population imbalance major hurdle: Awadi**

By Mahmoud Abedin

UNDERSECRETARY of the Planning Ministry and Co-ordinator of the five-year plan Dr Abdul Hadi Al Awadi said today that the main problem facing planning is the unbalanced demographic structure between Kuwaitis and expatriates. The contribution of expatriates in the workforce is too high compared to Kuwaitis, he added.

Further, Dr Awadi said that dependents among expatriates are too numerous which adds insult to injury concerning the issue.

Dr Awadi said that the results of the follow-up report covering the first three years of the five-year plan have been encouraging, but he admitted the presence of several drawbacks.

In an exclusive interview with Arab Times/Seyassah, Dr Awadi said that the plan had achieved some good results in making Kuwaiti students opt for technical and scientific studies and that Kuwait had succeeded in the rationalisation of public expenditure and through the use of the state's financial resources.

Commenting on discussions held last week at the Ministry of Planning to review progress in the implementation of the five-year-plan, Dr Awadi said that the main object of the meeting was to debate a number of development issues. He said that the Ministry firmly believes that planning is a collective issue which requires continuous consultations. Discussions between the various state departments will lead to working out a number of policies related to developmental issues, he said.

Strike denied

STUDENTS of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training did not go on a strike, according to senior official.

The official who was commenting on a press report about the alleged strike among students of the centre said that on March 26 some students refused to attend classes.

The Assistant Director at the centre said that on the following day all students resumed their studies at the centre with the exception of 13.

He said that the monthly payments for students had been delayed due to an official holiday.

All classes at the centre have been provided with air-conditioning units and a private company appointed to carry out maintenance.

Ministry officials are having continual discussions with other ministries and government departments, especially the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry

of the Interior and the municipality to streamline existing functions among these authorities and the land transportation department of the Ministry of Communications, Sudan said.

He added that his department is entrusted with the preparation of agreements and conferences related to transportation activities. The last agreement was signed between Kuwait and Iraq and concerned the international land transportation of passengers and goods.

A working paper has been prepared by the department to

Land transportation law being reviewed

A DRAFT law on land transportation is being reviewed by officials at the Ministry of Communications.

Saeed Al Sudan, assistant undersecretary at the ministry said that the department is reviewing some service charges including studying changes related to the organisational structure of the department (land transportation affairs department).

Ministry officials are having continual discussions with other ministries and government departments, especially the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry

of the Interior and the municipality to streamline existing functions among these authorities and the land transportation department of the Ministry of Communications, Sudan said.

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Students group submit memorandum to Indian Ambassador

A GROUP of top-ranking students led by the Overseas Indian Cultural Congress met with the Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha on Thursday (6/4/90) and submitted a memorandum that highlighted their problems.

It asked to recognise Kuwait as a centre for entrance examinations in Medicine, Engineering and other allied courses in India. Further it demanded

ded to reserve specific number of seats in professional colleges in India for Gulf students on well argued grounds. The group consisted of Vilas Sethi, Lincy Rachel John, Reena Nambiar, and Anu Sara Phillip.

The ambassador assured the students and the OICC that their demands were very reasonable and that he would take them up with utmost importance when he visited India.

Agriculture authority to open new nurseries soon**Animal health to be updated**

THE Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources will soon open nurseries in Wafta and Abdaly, nursery department head Khaled Qassar told a local daily.

He also said the authority plans to continue planting throughout Kuwait, in addition to laying modern irrigation systems in all the country's nurseries.

The official added that some citizens are not doing their part in helping nursery projects, and that others make excessive demands on his department. This will be regulated in the future, he said, through the establishment of set delivery times and

issuing of "agricultural cards" which will require citizens to obtain plants at the nursery in his area.

Inquiries

The department replies to any inquiries raised by citizens, Qassar said, and offers advice in agricultural matters, in its commitment to upgrading agricultural efficiency both on the individual and institutional levels.

The department distributed about 140,000 seedlings last year, in addition to some 250,000 plants which were distributed during the Afforestation Week, the official said.

Meanwhile, the authority was repre-

ted at the 19th Arab Conference on Veterinary Medicine in Cairo by the director of the animal health department, Dr Sultan Ahmed Sultan. Discussions at the conference centred on animal-related health problems, Dr Sultan said.

He added that the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference stressed the need to circulate and regularly update a list of the epidemic diseases that prevailed in the area between the Arab countries, as an important step towards preventing the spread of epidemics around.

He added other suggestions by the Kuwait delegation centred on the submis-

sion of a report on the epidemics and diseases common in their countries in order to discuss possible ways to control them.

He said that the conference adopted a number of recommendations which stressed the need to further support the national institute for the development of anti-disease veterinary serums in order to further support its services and performance.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a national institute for quality-control of locally-produced and imported serum and inoculations.

Arab Times
Kuwait

Extradite Palestinian, asks US

ATHENS, April 11. (Reuters): The United States asks the Greek Supreme Court today to extradite a Palestinian terrorist charged with bombing a civilian airliner; in a case delayed for months.

Rashid, 34, is accused by the United States of planting a bomb aboard a Pan American plane bound for Honolulu in 1982, killing a Japanese teenager and

wounding 15 other passengers.

Rashid, who denies the charge, got support yesterday from one of Greece's deadliest left-wing guerrilla groups which bombed the home of Supreme Court judge Samuel Samuel to warn against extraditing him.

No-one was hurt when the bomb blew off the front door of

his suburban fifth-floor apartment.

The American extradition request reached the Supreme Court last November but the court put off reviewing the case for more than four months.

Rashid has been held in Athens' top security prison since May when he was arrested for

entering Greece on a false Syrian passport. He was sentenced to eight months in jail on March 28 for having weapons in his prison.

"Even if the Supreme Court backs Washington's request, Rashid could avoid extradition for eight months by serving his full sentence," a senior court official said.

One thousand police will guard the courtroom bearing the

charge of 154-53 to postpone debate on the controversial Islamic laws until the convening of the projected constitutional conference, a step toward making peace with south Sudan's rebels.

The move tantamount to suspending the law, a major demand of the mostly Christian or animist southern rebels.

More than 500 supporters of the fundamentalist Islamic Front whose deputies voted against the postponement, gathered outside the Parliament in a show of solidarity.

After the vote, all the front's 53 deputies walked out in protest. Before the vote, they kept shouting "No alternative to the sharia of Allah," and "there is no God but Allah."

The front wants to maintain the sharia, or Islamic law which was enacted by President Jafar Nimeiri two years before his 1985 overthrow by the Army.

The rebels oppose it mainly because of its harsh penal code, which includes limb amputation for theft, execution by stoning for adultery and public flogging for drinking alcohol.

No date has been set for the convening of the constitutional conference, which will comprise all political powers in the country including the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The conference is unlikely to convene before the term of the current Parliament ends in June which

means dropping the Islamic Law Bill. According to regulations, a bill will die if the house fails to decide on it before the end of its term.

A Sudanese government delegation and rebel representatives have ended four days of talks with south Sudan's rebels.

A communiqué issued after the talks in Addis Ababa said the government and the SPLA had agreed that a "channel of communication" between them should be kept open.

A meeting between the government's ministerial level peace committee, set up last month by Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's new coalition, and SPLA leaders should be held at the earliest opportunity, it said.

SPLA spokesman Nehial Deng Nehial said rebel leader John Garang, who did not take part in the talks, would later reply to two documents.

Ethiopia says it will not permit planned relief flights into southern Sudan, cutting off an important arm of a massive UN effort to avert starvation in the war-torn region, A UN official said yesterday.

"The Ethiopia operation has been canned," said Vincent O'Reilly, co-ordinator for Operation Lifeline Sudan. "It came as a bit of a shock to the system."

Splits in Iran hamper talks

Iraq is not optimistic



Iraqi POWs released

Sixty-six Iraqi prisoners of war were repatriated yesterday following their release by the Iranian authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. A statement from the Geneva-based humanitarian agency said that the prisoners, who were all wounded, sick or elderly, were flown from Tehran to Baghdad on an ICRC-chartered aircraft. They were accompanied by a doctor, two nurses

and an ICRC delegate. The repatriation took place following a decision by the Iranian government to release 70 Iraqis. Four of them refused to be repatriated and remained in Iran, the ICRC said.

Picture shows Iraqi POWs queued to board a Red Cross plane in Tehran yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Guerrillas intensify raid on Jalalabad

Arab journalist killed

KABUL, April 11. (Agencies): Muslim guerrillas who besieged Jalalabad five weeks ago have attacked with new fury, launching 18,000 rockets and shells at the city in 24 hours, the government said.

"This big offensive was launched from afar on the city, backed by Pakistani artillery," said a Foreign Ministry statement issued yesterday.

Throughout the siege, the Marxist government has sought to portray the battle as being fought 25 to 30 kilometres (15 to 20 miles) from Jalalabad without close combat. Its latest statement appears to contradict that by saying "the enemy tried to retake positions they had lost during the battle, without success."

As described officially, the guerrilla bombardment would be one of the heaviest in the fight for Jalalabad, the first major guerrilla offensive launched after completion of the Soviet military withdrawal Feb 15.

Government reports on the fighting in the past three weeks indicated the daily total of shells and rockets fired at Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of Kabul, had not exceeded 12,000.

No confirmation of battle reports is possible because foreign journalists are not allowed into the area, which is about 72 kilometres (45 miles) from the Pakistan border.

The Foreign Ministry statement, given to Western reporters by telephone, said soldiers killed 12 enemy fighters in the 24 hours ending at sundown yesterday, including an "Arab adviser," and 70 were wounded. It reported 11 civilians and three government soldiers killed and 40 shops destroyed.

It is not known how many people remain in Jalalabad, which government statistics say had a population of 64,600 two years ago. Thousands have fled since the siege began March 6.

A constant barrage of rocket fire by Afghan guerrillas on the eastern city of Jalalabad has halted almost all economic activity and forced residents to remain indoors, a Pravda correspondent reported.

V. Smigirev, describing his 49-hour stay in the besieged Afghan city, said the guerrilla bombardments had prompted authorities to impose a 24-hour curfew and reduced supplies to a trickle as only helicopters could land at the airport.

The firing on the city does not let up for a single minute. Day



Hekmatyar in Malaysia

Afghan guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar arrived in Malaysia on Monday on an eight-nation tour aimed at attracting international recognition for a rebel interim government. Hekmatyar, arriving in Kuala Lumpur from Dhaka, said Bangladesh was likely to formally recognise the rebel government "in a few days." Picture shows Hekmatyar (right) answering a question at a press conference on arrival in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysian Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim (centre) and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Malaysia, Fuad Al Khatib (left) were at the airport to welcome Hekmatyar. (Reuter wirephoto)

and night," he wrote. "Fifty thousand shells and bombs have fallen in the past month. They have brought mourning into nearly every house."

Meanwhile, rebel sources said that an Arab journalist was killed in fighting between Afghan troops and rebels around Jalalabad.

Little progress in talks: Denktash

Total pullout ruled out

LONDON, April 11. (Reuters): Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash was quoted today as saying he had ruled out a complete withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.

Denktash, whose northern Cypriot state is recognised only by Ankara, told the independent newspaper there had been little progress in contacts with Cypriot President George Vassiliou aimed at ending the 15-year-old partition of the country.

"We are prepared to accept that there shall be phased withdrawals of Turkish troops (from

for this grand monument our countries and our leaders decided to build 54 days ago."

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasseen Ramadan said.

The prime minister attending the gathering were Eif Sidiqi of Egypt, Zaid Rifai of Jordan and Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani of North Yemen.

The council was established in Baghdad on Feb 16.

Delegation officials said the four will discuss papers prepared by Iraq — current president of the council — on co-operation among the four members in trade, security, transport and communications, as well as co-ordinating policy in international forums.

There has been virtually no agreement between myself and Mr Vassiliou, nor will there be unless there is a fundamental change of attitude by the Greek Cypriots," Denktash said.

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The council was established in

BAGHDAD, April 11. (AP): Government leaders from Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen conferred here yesterday to discuss means of consolidating their recently formed Arab Co-operation Council.

"We are here to lay the ground

for nearly two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Shamir said yesterday Arab states should help Israel pay to "establish a human condition" for nearly two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Israel doesn't have the financial means to solve all these problems" in the refugee camps, Shamir said at a news conference during a trip to Chicago.

Jordan has revised its electoral law to exclude the inhabitants of the West Bank and end the allocation of seats for Palestinians in refugee camps inside the country, a senior Jordanian official said.

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BAGHDAD, April 11

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

AN HONEST MAN IS THE NOBLEST WORK OF GOD — Alexander Pope, English poet (1688-1744).

Rebel rousing

Sabre-rattling by Ethiopian rebels

By Eric Onstad

ETHIOPIA, (Reuters): In the Tigrayan mountains, rousing anthems echo around an isolated Ethiopian gorge as Tigrayan rebels chart the progress of a movement they hope will become the future of their country.

It is politicking with a rebel twist, complete with banners and Kalashnikov rifles.

"Beware enemy, the masses are hunting you," boomed the loudspeakers when the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) began its third convention in a decade last month, with revolutionary rhetoric as well as specially printed T-shirts and pens for nearly 2,000 people attending.

The TPLF has this year overrun almost all of the province. Now, rebel leaders told the first foreign journalists to visit since the offensive, is the time to win the allies needed to take control of all Ethiopia.

The convention was a step in the TPLF's bid to create a nationwide movement to overthrow the Marxist regime of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Delegates drafted a four-year plan aimed at bringing a united front of opposition groups closer to taking the reins of power — and between times delegates and guests enjoyed jazz bands, American cigarettes and Pepsi.

Perched on cliffs hundreds of feet above the canyon site of the convention, rebel soldiers manning anti-aircraft guns kept watch for MiG fighters of the Ethiopia government.

This programme is not only for us, but also for the other opposition groups in Ethiopia," TPLF central committee member Abai Tsehai said in a closing night speech.

The TPLF and the secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) signed a cooperation agreement last year, forming an alliance which helped the TPLF capture the garrison town of Inda Selassie last February.

A smaller group the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, which operates to the south of Tigray, has now agreed to coordinate military and political action with the TPLF.

These alliances cap the TPLF's biggest military victories since it began fighting 14 years ago to topple the Soviet-backed Ethiopian government.

The TPLF overwhelmed an estimated 30,000 troops defending Inda Selassie on February 20 and a week later captured the provincial capital Mekele.

With control of virtually all Tigray, rebel leaders issued a furtive call for 592 delegates and more than 1,000 workers and security troops to proceed to the secluded convention site.

Within two weeks the TPLF transported nearly 2,000 people and trucked in tonnes of food, tents and electronic equipment over hundreds of kms (miles) of twisting, rocky mountain trails.

The location was so well concealed that a TPLF vehicle carrying two journalists spent more than an hour searching for the entrance, tucked in a craggy ravine.

Inside the ground, rebels did their best to offer all the trappings of a Western political convention.

Six portable generators, swallowing 90 litres of petrol a day, powered sophisticated amplification system, equipment for a jazz band, a video system and electric lights in all tents.

TPLF leaders said they captured most of the electronic equipment, as well as the cigarettes, beer and cognac on offer, from officers' clubs of the Ethiopian Army.

Diplomats in Addis Ababa say exiled Tigrayans provide the only outside financial support to the TPLF, which captures all its military supplies from the government.

The movement supports the EPLF's secessionist struggle in Eritrea, but calls for a democratic government, a mixed economy and a non-aligned foreign policy for the remainder of united Ethiopia, TPLF chairman Sebhat Negga said.

The Ethiopian government, which usually dismisses the TPLF as bandits, has never accepted the TPLF's criticisms of its policies and, although it has started moving to liberalise the economy slightly, has not promised any of the democratic reforms the TPLF says it is seeking.

Most TPLF leaders are members of the front's sole political party, the Marxist-Leninist League of Tigray (MLLT), which held its convention immediately before the rebel congress.

The MLLT defends the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, regarding post-1953 Soviet ideology as "anti-Marxist revisionism."

Press review

Meeting welcomed

PARIS, (KUNA): The upcoming meeting between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and French President Francois Mitterrand will provide France with an opportunity to play a more influential role in the Middle East region, commented Le Point weekly.

The magazine said France realises that the two superpowers have "manipulated" events in the Middle East, and France is now leading the European Economic Community to a more active role in that troubled region by organising a Franco-Palestinian summit.

"The President does not want to leave the Palestinian map in the hands of the Americans and the Soviets, henceforth succumbing to the eternal syndrome of Yalta," commented Le Point.

It said that in the internal arena, the Jewish reaction to Mitterrand's initiative was very moderate, thus the French public would welcome the summit in France, especially that the televised images of the intifada in the occupied lands would justify it.

Le Point said the Middle East region is preparing itself for peace, pointing out that Egypt is playing the grand role of mediator after its return to the Arab fold.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1545 — France's King Francis I orders massacre of Vaudois Protestants.

1621 — French forces under King Louis XIII set out to crush Huguenot rebellion.

1654 — Ireland and Scotland are united with England.

1815 — Austria declares war on Joachim Murat, king of Naples, for occupying Rome.

1850 — French troops restore Pope Pius IX and occupy Rome.

1861 — US civil war starts as confederates (south) take Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

1945 — US President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at age 63, and Harry S. Truman is sworn in as his successor.

1957 — West German nuclear physicists refuse to co-operate in producing or testing of atomic weapons.

1961 — Soviet Union puts first man in space — cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin makes safe landing after one orbit of earth.

1963 — First armed attacks by Indonesian forces on Malaysia.

1966 — US bombers carry out their first strikes against North Vietnam.

1975 — Kampuchea's Premier Long Boré announces that military government is in charge in his country and will continue fighting communists.

1986 — Commander of "Khalistan Commando Force" terrorists says his rebels are recruiting guerrilla army to battle Indian military for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab state.

1987 — Soviet media reports that two cosmonauts walking in space successfully linked space module to their orbital space station Mir.

1988 — Fighting in Afghanistan intensifies with onset of spring despite a UN-sponsored agreement to withdraw Soviet troops.

Outlook for Middle East peace still unclear

By Barry Schwedel

WASHINGTON, (AP): Back-to-back visits by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Shamir have restored US momentum in the Middle East but the outlook for peace talks is unclear until sceptical Palestinians decide their next move.

They are faced with the hard choice of electing leaders to negotiate with an Israeli government that has ruled "out statehood, or using force and diplomacy to try to dislodge Israel from the West Bank and Gaza.

US President George Bush's endorsement of Shamir's proposal for elections in the Israeli-occupied territories was coupled during the visits with a reiteration of US opposition to an independent Palestinian state.

These moves encouraged the Shamir government, which had been urged by the administration to come up with "new ideas" for dealing with the 1.4 million Palestinians who have been under Israeli control since 1967.

While the details are not clear, the goal set by the prime minister is a trial period of local self-rule, with negotiations on a permanent settlement to be conducted afterward by Israel, Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan.

However, Bush also said Israel should end its occupation of the territories and had no sovereignty claim to the land lost by the Arabs in the 1967 six-day war.

Shamir reiterated his position that retention of the West Bank is essential for Israel's security. His concern is not that a small Palestinian state would overwhelm Israel militarily. Rather, a close aide said, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's stated strategy is to gain a foothold on the West Bank and to trigger a war between Israel and the Arab countries.

The Israeli official, who spoke on condition of

anonymity, said the Arabs enjoy a 10-1 advantage in weapons.

"The choice is not between Israel keeping the territories or risking war," Shamir said. "The opposite is true. If we leave, there will almost certainly be war."

At the end of Shamir's visit the Israeli delegation seemed satisfied with the results. Privately, the official said, they had told their American hosts at the start that the Bush administration was drifting toward support of PLO positions and that Israel was prepared to make a public issue of its concern.

"The critical thing to change is the signal the US is sending the Arabs," the official said. "Both sides decided to find a middle ground, and we found it."

Still, the Bush administration will keep talking to the PLO, to the dismay of Israel, which accuses the group of unrelenting terrorism. And Bush's statements on the West Bank and Gaza appear to leave no room for compromise.

Mubarak's visit, meanwhile, produced US assurances that Bush and Secretary of State James Baker consider the situation in the territories untenable. The Egyptian leader worked hard at trying to convince them that an international peace conference would instantly produce direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Bush gave the idea lukewarm endorsement, saying a conference might help at the appropriate time and under the right circumstances. More important, from Mubarak's viewpoint, the President and Baker left no doubt the administration would not permit the situation in the territories to stagnate.

Bush underscored a need for "creativity" and "imaginative ways" of rethinking the peace process. His exploration of the possibilities will resume on April 19 with a visit to Washington by King Hussein of Jordan. Over the long run, though, the Palestinians' response to Shamir's proposal could hold the key.

US response to Shamir's proposal

By Norman D. Sandler

WASHINGTON (UPI): Symptomatic of the frustration the Middle East has held for US diplomacy, the US administration has embraced an Israeli plan for Palestinian elections as at least "a very useful first step" toward peace.

"It is a small step? Yes, it's a small step," Secretary of State James Baker said. "But as someone indicated a couple of days ago, this is the most intractable foreign policy problem that many US administrations have faced and we ought not be dissatisfied with small steps."

Continuing to urge concessions from both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, US officials hope to build momentum from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ideas for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The elections would not lead immediately to the direct talks the United States wants to see — and Israel accepts only as an eventuality — on the

permanent status of the occupied territories. Instead, they would lead to an interim period of Palestinian self-rule that could set the stage for negotiations.

But US officials see a potential for using the plan to move Israeli and Arab leaders towards accommodation, with a caveat from Baker: that neither side "set hard and fast preconditions" before negotiating terms for elections.

Calling Shamir's willingness to negotiate a new development, Baker said, "I think it is a very useful first step that will enable us, hopefully, to engage Arabs and Israelis in a negotiation that might lead to peace."

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, in an interview on NBC television, agreed that "we have taken only the very first, very tiny steps into a very difficult problem."

"The elections will not lead immediately to the United States can't make peace in the Middle East," he said. "All we can help is the parties, to bring them together, to build on points of conver-



A Palestinian youth aims his slingshot at Israeli soldiers during a recent clash. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ending military intervention is the hardest part

Cambodia: a costly foreign adventure for Vietnam

By Robert H. Reid

BANGKOK, Thailand, (AP): Vietnam's 10-year military occupation of Cambodia was a costly adventure that deprived the nation of international support it desperately needed to rebuild after years of conflict with the United States.

Vietnam announced last week it would withdraw its remaining 50,000-70,000 troops from Cambodia by Sept. 30, even without a political settlement of the crisis brought about by the December 1978 intervention.

Last June, Vietnamese officials admitted that 25,000 troops had been killed in Cambodia and another 30,000 died in border clashes before the invasion.

Ironically, a complete withdrawal without a political settlement would be strikingly similar to the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan and the US departure from Vietnam.

In each case, foreign military intervention fell short of the goal of defeating insurgents and guaranteeing a stable, friendly regime. Vietnam faces the prospect of seeing the very group it sought to defeat regain power after Hanoi's forces are gone.

But the costs of continuing the occupation have proven too high.

The United States has refused to discuss establishing diplomatic relations with Hanoi until the Cambodian issue is resolved.

The occupation also has cost Vietnam an oppor-

tunity to expand trade ties with non-communist Southeast Asian nations that Vietnam desperately needs to repair a shattered economy.

Vietnam launched its invasion on Christmas Day 1978, only three years after Hanoi's forces toppled the US-backed South Vietnamese government in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh city.

The goal was to topple the brutal administration of the communist Khmer Rouge, which under Pol Pot was responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of Cambodians in a zealous campaign to create a primitive, agrarian society.

By the following January, Vietnamese troops had driven the Khmer Rouge to the Thai border and had installed Heng Samrin in Phnom Penh.

But as with the Soviets in Afghanistan and the Americans in Vietnam, the Vietnamese found that ending military intervention is the hard part.

In February 1979, China launched a brief but bloody border war to "teach Vietnam a lesson." Vietnam inflicted heavy losses on Chinese forces. But the conflict nonetheless strained Vietnamese resources and brought China into the Cambodian conflict as a source of military and diplomatic support for the anti-Vietnamese resistance.

On June 22, 1982, the Khmer Rouge and guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian monarch, and former Premier Son Sann announced formation of a resistance coalition, which eventually claimed the country's

seat in the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the continued occupation added new strains to Vietnam's devastated economy. Last June, Deputy Premier Vo Van Kiet said the economy faced "alarmingly complicated changes," including famine in the north and runaway inflation.

Grain production in 1987 fell from 18.2 million tons to 17.6 million tons. Inflation was estimated at nearly 1,000 per cent and unemployment at about 20 per cent.

Faced with mounting pressure, Vietnam launched a foreign policy initiative last year to end its occupation. Last September, the Vietnamese Communist Politburo met to discuss foreign policy in the "post-Cambodian period."

Sources said the Politburo decided to reduce Vietnam's dependence on the Soviet Union and seek to improve ties with the West and with pro-Western governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

That required ending the Cambodian adventure.

Vietnam withdrew its command staff last June, transferring responsibility for running the war to the Cambodians, much as the Soviets and the Americans passed out their involvement in Afghanistan and South Vietnam.

A series of diplomatic moves led to inconclusive peace talks between Sihanouk and Premier Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian administra-

tion.

The future role of the Khmer Rouge has been the major obstacle to a political settlement. Both Vietnam and the United States have publicly opposed its return to power by the Khmer Rouge.

Western diplomats say fighting inside Cambodia declined last year to its lowest level since the invasion. But the diplomats believe the decline is part of a strategy by the Khmer Rouge to avoid clashes and build up arsenals for a showdown after the Vietnamese have left.

The Khmer Rouge deny they will seize power and have called for a coalition government. Western analysts say the moves apparently were made under pressure from China, the major arms supplier.

But the Khmer Rouge are believed to be the strongest of the three groups in Sihanouk's coalition. Western estimates place the number of Khmer Rouge guerrillas at 30,000 to 40,000 compared with 13,000 for the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation armed forces and 19,000 for Sihanouk's forces.

It is unclear whether the 30,000 to 40,000 government forces can protect the administration Vietnam will leave behind. Last year, Hun Sen told Western reporters that Cambodians "are used to counting on (the Vietnamese) for security."

"This withdrawal of Vietnamese troops will naturally induce this false wave of anxieties," he said.



Police officers lower the body of a killed SWAPO guerrilla into a

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japanese investment in China seen stagnating

TOKYO, April 11, (Reuters): Japanese investment in China is unlikely to grow much this year as Tokyo watches Beijing wrestle with its chaotic economy, officials and businessmen said today.

Chinese Premier Li Peng is expected to renew calls for a greater commitment to China by Japanese companies when he arrives tomorrow for an official visit, but his pleas are expected to have little effect.

The officials and businessmen cited China's record inflation, rampant corruption and a recent austerity drive as reasons for pessimism, although they agreed that established enterprises are not thinking of pulling out of China.

"I do not know if this is the most worrying period in China's 10 years of reforms, but it is certainly one of them," said an official in charge of China trade at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Increase

He said MITI did not expect an increase in Japanese exports to China in the 1989 calendar year although imports may grow slightly.

Japan is China's second biggest trading

partner after Hong Kong. Exports from Japan totalled \$9.48 billion in calendar 1988, up 14.9 per cent from a year earlier. Imports were \$9.86 billion in 1988, up 33.2 per cent, according to MITI figures.

China 10 years ago initiated wide-ranging economic and social reforms which brought more wealth to many but also led to a record 18.5 per cent inflation rate last year and sired an underground economy riddled with corruption.

Last month Premier Li Peng spent out an austerity programme aimed at halting price surges and regaining control.

Drive

But, for some Japanese businessmen, the medicine feels worse than the malady.

"There are many contracts being cancelled (by the Chinese) now and many being delayed," said the MITI official. "It is a bad period now."

"Some older people used to dream about the huge Chinese market," said Osamu Nagano, director of the International Department at Japan Leasing Corporation. "Now they just worry about its difficulties."

He said the austerity drive would hobble Japan's exports to China, reduce Japanese involvement in state-run projects and generally dampen demand.

For the leasing business, which thrived when China was keen on borrowing to finance foreign procurements, austerity is likely to mean a downturn, said Nagano.

The outlook for investment in China by private companies, where Japan ranks a distant third behind Hong Kong and the United States, is also grim.

The MITI official said Japan had no reliable recent statistics on investment in China but, in any case, 1989 was unlikely to see much growth.

"The investment environment is the same as trade — adversely affected by inflation and the austerity programme," the official said.

An employee at a small-scale but specialist China trade and investment firm said excessive bureaucracy, corruption, inadequate laws, erratic supply lines and indolent labour were perennial problems in China.

"Lately, corruption has become unbelievable," said the employee, who

requested anonymity. "They ask for some gift or money for everything you want to do. Bribery is almost an accepted business practice now."

"The Chinese government wants to keep foreign companies making a very thin profit and give as much of the profit of joint enterprises to help China's modernisation drive," said Takeshi Yamamoto, head of research at Barclays De Zoete and Wedd Securities House in Tokyo.

Largest

Nobody doubts, however, that major Japanese companies already in China are there for the long haul, prepared to suffer in the short-term while waiting for the world's largest market — 1.1 billion people — to mature.

"There is no change in our strategy towards China," said a spokesman for Mitsubishi Corp. "There are sometimes periods of adjustment like for the next two years, but this will pass."

The Mitsubishi spokesman said a treaty protecting Japanese investments in China signed by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi last August had reduced risk.



Takeshi asserts his innocence

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi asserts his innocence in the Recruit share scandal at Parliament on Tuesday. He said contributions his political organisations received from Recruit were legal and in reply to reports of huge donations, explained that a politician needs some kind of economic support and thus contributions are necessary.

(Reuter wirephoto)
See Takeshi acknowledges contributions
Page 10

Turkey opens gold market

ISTANBUL, April 11, (Reuters): Turkey opened an official gold market yesterday to halt smuggling, support the economy and place the country on the map as a centre for the metal.

The Central Bank, which brokers the market, set an initial gold price of \$382.25 an ounce, only slightly higher than international spot prices in Europe.

"The new market will kill smuggling and enhance international standards in gold investments in Turkey," Yaman Toruner, head of the Central Bank's money markets and funds department, told Reuters.

"In the next year we will place Turkey on the world map as an international trading centre for gold, just like the London or Zurich bourses," he said.

"Since we cannot employ smugglers as gold dealers in the Central Bank, let them start selling chickpeas," Toruner added.

In trials since March 28, the Central Bank sold a total 1.5 tonnes of gold on the screen-based market to authorised dealers, which include 11 banks and six foreign exchange offices.

Assets probe gears up as Kuwait eyes financial role

(Continued from Page 1)

after the investigation of assets is complete the banks will collect about KD400 million as collateral in addition to the collateralised assets of KD823 million held by the banks before the settlement programme.

Borrowers assets attached to the bank have gone up since 1985 by 40 to 45 per cent, but the debt has increased by about 50 per cent in the past six years due to the accumulation of interest, Sheikh Salem said.

The Manakh disaster continues to plague the commercial banks whose non-performing loans form 40 per cent of their total loan portfolios. Only the NBK has a sound loan portfolio. It was recently joined by two specialised banks, the Kuwait Real Estate Bank and the Industrial Bank.

The Central Bank is planning in the future to cut back on its intervention in the banking system.

"Our support is not for ever. When we find that an institution is performing well and with adequate safeguards we will withdraw," said Sheikh Salem.

He said, in the near future, the banks will be asked to report in their balance sheets the full details of their operation. Analysts have said that Kuwaiti banks' balance sheets contain less than 50 per cent of the information required for a proper appraisal of a bank's operation.

"I am for full disclosure, it must happen in the near future," said Sheikh Salem.

Defending the interest rate hike up last December he said that the outflow of KDF funds due to the interest rate differential affected the banks' lending capacity.

"I have to protect my creditors. How will the banks extend loans if they don't have dinar deposits," he said.

Answering accusations that the rise in interest rates killed the local bond market Sheikh Salem said Kuwait's bond market is negligible. The bond holders are the Central Bank and other banks with individual holders accounting for only three per cent. He quoted the example of the US market where a rise in interest rates had no serious effect on stock and bond markets.

Sheikh Salem denied that Kuwait has dipped into its Future Generations Fund to cover its budget deficit.

Banking sources recently said that some high performing assets from the Future Generations Fund were swapped with less profitable ones from the General Reserve Fund.

"We don't need to touch these funds to cover the budget deficit. We have issued debt instruments for that purpose," he said.

Commenting on reports that Kuwait's credit rating has dropped in the past six months Sheikh Salem said this could be only due to an improvement in credit ratings.

"I could think of nothing that has happened in Kuwait to warrant a drop in our credit worthiness," he said.

Institutional Investor magazine of New York recently published the results of a survey which showed that Kuwait which held 27th place in September last year is now down to No. 29.

Saudi riyal

NICOSIA, April 11, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits were steady in an unusually thin market today, with sentiment dampened by the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

The spot riyal was also steady at 3.7503/06 to the dollar.

World crude prices climb

Kuwait invited to explore oil in Aden

KUWAIT, April 11, (Agencies): South Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Hussein left here yesterday after talks on strengthening bilateral co-operation in the oil industry with Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa.

Hussein said before departure that he had invited the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry to explore for oil in South Yemen, adding that he had found the Kuwaiti officials "responsive" to the suggestion.

South Yemen, which is currently a marginal oil exporter, hopes to be able to export upwards of 30,000 barrels per day (BPD) eventually.

The South Yemeni visitor was seen off by Kuwaiti Oil Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Sulaitan and several others senior officials.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) has earmarked \$6.70 million for setting up a gas cylinder plant in order to meet growing domestic demand, according to KOTC board chairman Abdulfattah Al Badr.

The idea of the project, now under close study, came up foll-

owing sharp fluctuations in global steel prices, he said, stressing that the cylinders used in the country had the best international safety standards.

Al Badr said the cylinder plant would be jointly built by the KOTC and the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC), adding that he expected the feasibility study to be finalised in June this year.

Meanwhile world oil prices climbed smartly yesterday as the lingering ripple effects of the March 24 Alaska spill on supplies became more apparent.

Analysts said they expected the weekly report by the American Petroleum Institute today to show sharp declines in US stocks of crude and gasoline.

Unleaded gasoline, which has been leading the market since the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Alaska and unleashed the spill, gained 2.34 cents to 67.29 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Gasoline shot up by more than 11 cents a gallon in the week after the spill and finished close to the level Friday following a week of rollercoaster trading.

West Texas Intermediate, Lebow said.

In contrast, the Cray 3 is expected to perform up to 16 billion operations per second, Lindamood said.

The computers are being sold in North America by HNSX Supercomputers Inc., a Massachusetts-based marketing company jointly owned by NEC and Honeywell Inc. They will range in price from \$5 million to \$23 million and will use a version of the Unix base layer of software.

Cray Research did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment on the NEC chip.

Minorco ups bid in fight for British mining group

LONDON, April 11, (Reuters): South African-backed Minerals and Resources Corp. put another £300 million (\$507 million) on the table today in its bitter fight for British mining house Consolidated Gold Fields PLC.

The raised offer from Minorco valued Cons Gold at £3.5 billion (\$5.9 million) in what would be the biggest takeover in British corporate history.

It is the second time that the Luxembourg-based arm of Harry Oppenheimer's South African gold and diamond empire has raised its stakes since its first bid last October.

Minorco chief executive Sir Michael Edwards said the increased cash-and-shares bid worth £15.50 (\$26.20) per Cons Gold share was the final work — "nobody will pay more."

Action

He called on Cons Gold to call off legal action in the United States, where it has won a court order blocking the takeover on anti-trust grounds.

Cos Gold immediately dismissed the new bid, saying the price did not reflect the true value of the company.

"This is the third shot that still falls short of the target. They could have pulled out or tried to knock us out. Now they have failed to land the punch," a Cons Gold spokesman said.

On the London Stock Exchange Cons Gold shares fell 60 pence (\$1) to £13.35 (\$22.56), prompting market speculation that the new offer would not be high enough.

"There is widespread concern that the bid is not enough to force Cons Gold to withdraw its US court injunction preventing the bid," said one source analyst.

In the revised offer Minorco increased its 1988/89 dividend forecast by 40 per cent, which would be paid on the new Minorco shares on offer in the bid.

Minorco, which already owns 30.6 per cent of Cons Gold, has made ending the court action by Cons Gold and its US associate Newmont Mining Corp. a condition of the takeover.

Stake

Minorco has said it will sell Cons Gold's 49-per-cent stake in Denver-based Newmont as well as stakes in two other mining groups, Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd and Remsen Goldfields Consolidated Ltd of Australia.

Minorco launched its bid on October 4 with an offer valuing Cons Gold at £2.9 billion (\$4.9 billion) and increased this to £3.2 billion (\$5.4 billion) on February 20 after British and European Economic Community authorities said the bid could go ahead.

Chalabi sees OPEC pact in June

BAGHDAD, April 11, (Reuters): Iraq's oil minister said today he hoped OPEC would reach an agreement on prices and possibly higher output quotas for the second half of 1989 at a planned meeting in Vienna on June 5.

Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi told Reuters in an interview that the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) generally agreed that the output ceiling set last November should be raised.

"We will wait to see how the market will behave in April and May... but I am sure we will come out strong in June and we will again have an agreement by all members," he said.

OPEC agreed in November to limit its production to 18.5 million barrels per day (BPD) to boost prices and allocated equal output quotas of 2.64 million BPD to Gulf war foes Iran and Iraq.

Chalabi said it was too early to discuss how individual limits might adjust, but he made clear that Iraq would insist on retaining parity with Iran.

Oil prices have risen almost \$7 a barrel since OPEC's November pact as world output fell on OPEC adherence to quotas and some production problems arose elsewhere.

Middle East benchmark crude Dubai, selling just below \$10 a barrel in November, was on sale in Tokyo today for \$16.80.

India told to supply gas for cars

KATMANDU, Nepal, April 11, (AP): Foreign missions in Katmandu, running short of gasoline for their cars because of India's blocking of supplies to Nepal, have asked India to let diplomats here import gasoline.

In a note, Nepal's foreign office has told all 19 diplomatic missions in Katmandu that the blockade has left the government with no choice but to apply rigorous rationing of gasoline.

The government added, however, that diplomatic personnel could approach India for supplies for their exclusive use since India's sanctions were against Nepal, but not against foreigners residing in the country.

India closed most border checkpoints after Indo-Nepalese trade and transport treaties expired March 23. Landlocked Nepal, which depends on routes through India for many of its supplies, wants two new treaties, while India demands a unified treaty combining trade and transportation agreements.

LONDON, April 11, (Agencies): The US dollar was trading in a narrow, mostly higher, range in Europe this morning and foreign currency dealers said they saw little impetus for it to move. Gold prices also rose.

"I haven't seen the dollar move since I came in this morning," said one trader in Rome. "I don't see much space to move the dollar higher, but there's also no reason for it to go down."

Another trader said the dollar may be able to break out of its current range later this week when the US government releases a number of economic statistics, including the trade figures for February and producer prices for March.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$383.25 a troy ounce, up from \$382.45 bid late Monday.

Everyone was waiting for Takeshi's explanation. It turned out that it was not a major event and this prompted buying.

"In Zurich, the bid price was \$384.30 up from \$381.50 bid late Monday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose 2.87 to close at a bid \$386.37.

Silver was quoted in London at a bid price of \$5.83 a troy ounce, up from Monday's 5.77.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi's testimony denying any personal link to the Recruit Company share scandal sent Tokyo stock prices up but barely touched the currency market, brokers and traders said.

Trading neared a standstill during most of this morning as ears were tuned in to hear Takeshi answer opposition party questions at a parliamentary budget committee session.

Gains were biggest among precision instruments, pulp/paper and electrical shares, while the credit/ease, real estate and bank sectors fell.

Takeshi's speech also failed to impress the currency market, dealers said.

The key 225-share Nikkei index finished up 256 points, or 0.76 per cent, at 33,2

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON (LONDON STOCKS)

| | NAME | LAST | CLOSE | OPEN | 2ND ALLCE | 3RD ALLCE | 4TH ALLCE | 5TH ALLCE | 6TH ALLCE |
|------------|----------|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ABB E LIFE | 318/0 | INCHCAPE | 247.0 | 246.5 | 246.5 | 246.5 | 246.5 | 246.5 | 246.5 |
| ADT LTD | 152.0 | JAGUAR | 295.0 | 297.0 | 297.0 | 297.0 | 297.0 | 297.0 | 297.0 |
| ALD LYONS | 440/0 | KINGFISHER | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 |
| AMSTRAD | 138/0 | LADROKE | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 | 530.0 |
| ARGYLL GP | 174/0 | LONRRO | 315/0 | 315/0 | 315/0 | 315/0 | 315/0 | 315/0 | 315/0 |
| ASDA GP | 147/0 | LUCAS IND | 600/0 | 600/0 | 600/0 | 600/0 | 600/0 | 600/0 | 600/0 |
| BAA | 346.0 | MAGNET | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 |
| BTR | 353/0 | MARSH SP | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 |
| BAT INDs | 532/0 | MECCA LEI | 173/0 | 173/0 | 173/0 | 173/0 | 173/0 | 173/0 | 173/0 |
| BARCLAYS | 424.0 | MEPC | 542.0 | 542.0 | 542.0 | 542.0 | 542.0 | 542.0 | 542.0 |
| BASS | 881/0 | NEXT | 145.0 | 145.0 | 145.0 | 145.0 | 145.0 | 145.0 | 145.0 |
| BEAVER | 187/0 | NTN FOODS | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 | 295.0 |
| BECHAMS | 596.0 | P & O DFD | 652.0 | 652.0 | 652.0 | 652.0 | 652.0 | 652.0 | 652.0 |
| BERISFORD | 153.0 | PEARL | 415/0 | 415/0 | 415/0 | 415/0 | 415/0 | 415/0 | 415/0 |
| BICC PLC | 463.0 | PEARSON | 705.0 | 705.0 | 705.0 | 705.0 | 705.0 | 705.0 | 705.0 |
| BLE ARR | 92/0 | PILKINGTON | 238.0 | 238.0 | 238.0 | 238.0 | 238.0 | 238.0 | 238.0 |
| BLUE CIRC | 545/0 | PLESSEY | 255/0 | 255/0 | 255/0 | 255/0 | 255/0 | 255/0 | 255/0 |
| BOC GP | 483/0 | POLLY PEC | 323/0 | 323/0 | 323/0 | 323/0 | 323/0 | 323/0 | 323/0 |
| BOOTS CO | 255.0 | RACAL ELC | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 |
| BPP INDs | 243/0 | RACAL TEL | 323.0 | 323.0 | 323.0 | 323.0 | 323.0 | 323.0 | 323.0 |
| BR COMM | 202/0 | RANK HVIS | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 | 374.0 |
| BR AIRWAY | 193/0 | RANK HRC | 907/0 | 907/0 | 907/0 | 907/0 | 907/0 | 907/0 | 907/0 |
| BR AEROSP | 547/0 | RCKITTY+O | 059/0 | 059/0 | 059/0 | 059/0 | 059/0 | 059/0 | 059/0 |
| BR GAS RG | 178.0 | REDLAND | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 |
| BR LAND | 361.0 | REED | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 |
| B.P. | 274.0 | RMC GRP | 651/0 | 651/0 | 651/0 | 651/0 | 651/0 | 651/0 | 651/0 |
| B.P. PP | 168/0 | REUTERS | 690/0 | 690/0 | 690/0 | 690/0 | 690/0 | 690/0 | 690/0 |
| BR STEEL | 81.25 | RTZ CORP | 522/0 | 522/0 | 522/0 | 522/0 | 522/0 | 522/0 | 522/0 |
| BR TELCON | 269/0 | ROLLS ROY | 178.0 | 178.0 | 178.0 | 178.0 | 178.0 | 178.0 | 178.0 |
| BURMAH OL | 523.0 | ROTHMAN B | 473/0 | 473/0 | 473/0 | 473/0 | 473/0 | 473/0 | 473/0 |
| BURTON | 197/0 | ROYAL INS | 410/0 | 410/0 | 410/0 | 410/0 | 410/0 | 410/0 | 410/0 |
| CABLEWEIR | 458/0 | SAATCHI | 288/0 | 288/0 | 288/0 | 288/0 | 288/0 | 288/0 | 288/0 |
| CAUDURYS | 337/0 | SAINSBURY | 220/0 | 220/0 | 220/0 | 220/0 | 220/0 | 220/0 | 220/0 |
| CALOR GRP | 379/0 | SCOT-NEW | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 |
| CRILTN CON | 845/0 | SEARS | 117.0 | 117.0 | 117.0 | 117.0 | 117.0 | 117.0 | 117.0 |
| CRILTN R T | COOKSONS | 294/0 | SEDEGWICK | 231/0 | 231/0 | 231/0 | 231/0 | 231/0 | 231/0 |
| COURTAULD | 267/0 | SHIBEL | 462.0 | 462.0 | 462.0 | 462.0 | 462.0 | 462.0 | 462.0 |
| DALGETY | 352.0 | SLOUGH ES | 306.0 | 306.0 | 306.0 | 306.0 | 306.0 | 306.0 | 306.0 |
| DIXONS | 144/0 | STD.CHART | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 | 525.0 |
| ENG CHINA | 509.0 | STC | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 |
| ENTER OL | 515.0 | STORENSE | 163.0 | 163.0 | 163.0 | 163.0 | 163.0 | 163.0 | 163.0 |
| FKI BACK | 166.0 | SUN ALLIA | 113.0 | 113.0 | 113.0 | 113.0 | 113.0 | 113.0 | 113.0 |
| FERRANTI | 101/0 | SUN LIFE | 910.0 | 910.0 | 910.0 | 910.0 | 910.0 | 910.0 | 910.0 |
| FISONS | 289.5 | TARMAC | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 | 292/0 |
| GATEWAY | 176/0 | TATEBLTE J | 159/0 | 159/0 | 159/0 | 159/0 | 159/0 | 159/0 | 159/0 |
| GEN ACCID | 965.0 | TYLWOOD | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 | 597.0 |
| GEN ELECT | 224/0 | TRAF HSE | 369.0 | 369.0 | 369.0 | 369.0 | 369.0 | 369.0 | 369.0 |
| GLAXO | 342/0 | TSB | 110/0 | 110/0 | 110/0 | 110/0 | 110/0 | 110/0 | 110/0 |
| GRANADA | 361.0 | T + N | 207.0 | 207.0 | 207.0 | 207.0 | 207.0 | 207.0 | 207.0 |
| GLOBE | 162.0 | TRUSTHSE | 285.0 | 285.0 | 285.0 | 285.0 | 285.0 | 285.0 | 285.0 |
| GLYNMHD | 303.0 | ULTRAMAR | 288.0 | 288.0 | 288.0 | 288.0 | 288.0 | 288.0 | 288.0 |
| GUARD RYL | 203/0 | UNILEVER | 520.0 | 520.0 | 520.0 | 520.0 | 520.0 | 520.0 | 520.0 |
| GKNL | 350.0 | UNIGATOR | 350/0 | 350/0 | 350/0 | 350/0 | 350/0 | 350/0 | 350/0 |
| GUINNESS | 440/0 | UTD NSPSR | 433/0 | 433/0 | 433/0 | 433/0 | 433/0 | 433/0 | 433/0 |
| HANNSER A | 758/0 | WELLCOME | 496/0 | 496/0 | 496/0 | 496/0 | 496/0 | 496/0 | 496/0 |
| HANSON | 177/4 | WHITEBIRD IN | 343/0 | 343/0 | 343/0 | 343/0 | 343/0 | 343/0 | 343/0 |
| HARRISH C | 735/0 | WILLIAMS | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 |
| HUKER SID | 635.0 | WILLIS FB | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 | 225.0 |
| HILLSDOWN | 264.0 | WIMPEY GE | 267/0 | 267/0 | 267/0 | 267/0 | 267/0 | 267/0 | 267/0 |

World Indices

| INDEX | LATEST | 1/PREV-DAYS/2 | PREV-QR | PREV-YR |
|------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| FT 30 ORD | 1665.5 | 1669.4 | 1683.0 | 1707.9 |
| FT 500 SHR | 1152.3 | 1152.3 | 1162.2 | 1182.7 |
| FT ALL SHR | 1048.43 | 1048.43 | 1058.56 | 1076.15 |
| FT GOV SEC | 86.16 | 86.16 | 86.08 | 87.30 |
| FT GOLD MN | 187.2 | 187.2 | 189.0 | 190.2 |
| FT MINES F | 656.40 | 656.40 | 674.80 | 653.25 |
| FT OIL | 1929.8 | 1929.8 | 1942.8 | 1978.9 |
| FT WLD DLR | 142.47 | 143.05 | 143.13 | 141.17 |
| FT WLD STG | 124.43 | 124.94 | 124.50 | 123.81 |
| FT WLD LOC | 130.72 | 131.14 | 130.88 | 129.77 |
| | | | | 123.40 |

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS WEAK BUT WELL OFF LOWS AT MIDSSESSION

London, April 11, Reuter - Shares were weak at midsession but well off the lows after the market rested falling through the psychologically important 2,000 level on the FTSE 100 index. Dealers said stocks were marked down in a flurry of activity this morning after an early attempt at a rally failed. But as the market began to near 2,000 small buying emerged.

AFTER CHANCELLOR NIGEL LAWSON YESTERDAY REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING INFLATION, DEALERS SAID THE MARKET WAS AWAY OF THE DANGER OF HIGHER U.K. INTEREST RATES TO CURB AN INFLATIONARY TREND.

AT 1105 GMT THE FTSE INDEX WAS 5.8 DOWN AT 2,019.2.

ONE TRADER SAID, "IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF THERE'S ANY IMMEDIATE NEED TO RAISE U.K. INTEREST RATES, UNLESS DATA AT THE END OF THE WEEK IS VERY BAD. THE ONLY IMMEDIATE DANGER IS THAT, SHOULD STERLING TAKE A DIVE, RATES WILL HAVE TO RISE TO DEFEND THE CURRENCY."

DEALERS SAID THE MARKET WILL REMAIN CAUTIOUS AHEAD OF FEBRUARY AVERAGE EARNINGS DATA ON THURSDAY AND MARCH RETAIL PRICES ON FRIDAY.

PITTARD GARNER WAS 47P WEAKER AT 184. THE MONOPOLIES

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

International Bond Highlights

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's debt-equity swap scheme, suspended since November 1987, remains closed although an opening is likely for tourism projects, officials said. (XLMW 0230) Earlier a spokesman for Banque Paribas said in Paris it signed a first debt conversion agreement with Mexico for about 48 mln dlsr involving finance for a hotel in Mexico City. (NRIE 1600)

TOKYO: Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. has plans to issue nearly 400 billion yen in bonds both in domestic and overseas markets in the year ending March 31, 1990, against a record 378 billion in fiscal year 1988/1989, a company spokesman said, without specifying their type. (XKSV 0647)

LIMA: An International Monetary Fund mission will arrive in Peru in April followed by a World Bank mission in mid-May to monitor the country's economic austerity programme, official spokesmen said.

Washington: A senior Treasury Department official reiterated the administration's opposition to a Senate plan to sell 50 billion dlsr in bonds to rescue savings and loan institutions and count the bond sales on the federal budget. (XLFB 1837)

BOMBAY

| | PR.CLOSE | OPEN | CLOSE | GNFC | 45 | 46 | 44.75 | NAT INDEX | 379.55 | 387.18 |
|-------------|----------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| ACC | 334 | 336 | 332 | GRASIN | 123 | 124 | 122 | NIPPON | 47 | 47 |
| ALEM CHEM | -- | -- | -- | GSFC | 150 | 152.50 | 150 | NOCIL | 875 | 890 |
| ALW NIS | -- | -- | -- | GUJ ALKL | 69 | 67.50 | 68.50 | ORKAY | 26.50 | 27 |
| ARI FAB | -- | -- | -- | GUJ HEAVY | 15 | 12 | 14 | OSHAL AGRO | 89 | 88 |
| ASHOK LEY | 80 | 81 | 80.50 | HERO HONDA | 30.50 | 31 | 30 | PETCO | 27.50 | 26 |
| ASIA PAINT | 215 | 215 | 212.50 | HIND CIBA | 980 | 980 | 980 | PFIZER | 76 | 75 |
| ATLAS COP | 52 | 50 | 52 | HIND COCOA | 120 | 118.75 | 120 | PONDS | 201.25 | 195 |
| AUTO CORP | 82 | 80 | 82 | HIND LEVER | 83 | 83.50 | 82.50 | PREN AUTO | 56 | 57 |
| BAJAJ AUTO | 445 | 445 | 442.50 | HIND MOTOR | 48 | 48.50 | 49 | RAMBAXY | 117.50 | 115 |
| BAR RAYON | -- | 435 | 437.50 | HINDALCO | 272.50 | 267.50 | 270 | RAY WOOL | 81 | 80 |
| BHK BOND | 225 | 153 | 150 | HOCHEST | 810 | 890 | 900 | RECKITT | 177.50 | 172.50 |
| BLOW PLAST | 146 | -- | -- | IND ORG | 42 | 42 | 41 | RELIANCE | 155.50 | 153 |
| BUR DYE | 152 | 148 | 143 | IND RAYON | 94 | 94 | 94 | SEAS GOA | 49 | 49 |
| BURR WEL | -- | 215 | 212.50 | INDROL | 326.50 | 330 | 325 | SHAW WALL | -- | -- |
| CANSHARE | 2760 | 190 | 170 | INGERSOLL | 390 | 370 | 380 | SUREE CEM | -- | -- |
| CEN ENKA | 2710 | 2770 | 2690 | ITC | 68 | 68 | 71 | SIRI FIB | 82 | 80 |
| CEN SPG | 1960 | 1980 | 1880 | JK SYN | 78 | 80 | 80 | SIEMENS | 81 | 80 |
| COLGATE | 362.50 | 363.75 | 357.50 | KIN ENGC | 195 | 185 | 190 | SKF | 2845 | 2850 |
| CROMI GR | 850 | 825 | 850 | KIR CLMH | 80 | 78.75 | 78.75 | SPIC | 68 | 65.25 |
| DCM | 15 | 14.50 | 15.50 | KSB PUMPS | 365 | 355 | 360 | TATA CHEM | 120.50 | 120 |
| DEEP FERT | 31.50 | 35 | 32.50 | L AND T | 105 | 105 | 106 | TATA OIL | 72.50 | 75 |
| DUNLOP | 92.50 | 92.50 | 92.50 | LIPTON | 77 | 76 | 77 | TATA POM | 350 | 330 |
| EI HOTELS | 50 | 50 | 52 | MAC RUSSEL | 92.50 | 92.50 | 90 | TELCD | 780 | 785 |
| ESCORTS | 67 | 66 | 64.50 | HAD COATS | 97 | 95 | 97 | THAPP AGRO | -- | -- |
| ESKAYEF | -- | 146.25 | 148.75 | MAHINDRA | 105.50 | 106 | 105 | TISCO | 1275 | 1300 |
| ESSAR SPG | 26 | 26 | 26 | MAS SHARE | 17 | 16.75 | 17 | VAN ORG | 168 | 168 |
| FOOD SPL | 195 | 193.75 | 195 | HICO FIN | 650 | 650 | 645 | VARELI | 28.75 | 28.75 |
| FORBES | 58 | 56 | 53 | MILKFODD | 290 | 275 | 275 | VOLTAS | 700 | 680 |
| GAR POLY | 78.75 | 80 | 80 | MODI | 107.50 | 110 | 106.75 | WINCO | 27 | 27 |
| GE SHIPPING | 44.50 | 45 | 43.50 | MRF LTD | 420 | 435 | 422.50 | ZENITH | 66 | 67 |
| GLINDIA | 95 | 95 | 95 | MUK IRON | 108 | 111 | 109 | ZUARI AGRO | 70 | 67.50 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 66.25 |

FRANKFURT

| STOCK | LAST | PR-CLE | STOCK | LAST | PR-CLE | STOCK | LAST | PR-CLE | STOCK | LAST | |
|-------------|----------|---------|------------|-------|--------|------------|------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| AEG | 215.0 | 214.0 | AJJINOMOTO | 2680 | 2680 | MITSUB CP | 1600 | 1590 | MITSUB EST | 2600 | 2670 |
| ALLIANZ VR | 1777.0 | 1770.0 | AKAI ELEC | 728 | 725 | MITSUB HVY | 1150 | 1140 | MITSUB HVY | 1150 | 1120 |
| BADENWERK | 190.0 | 189.5 | AKOI | 1400 | 1380 | MITSUI CO | 1190 | 1170 | MITSUI CO | 2320 | 2330 |
| BASF | 302.0 | 299.1 | ASAHI GLS | 2480 | 2440 | MITSUKOSH | 985 | 980 | MITSUKOSH | 1730 | 1780 |
| BAYER HYP | 302.8 | 300.7 | ASAHI OPT | 919 | 895 | MITSUMI EL | 1240 | 1230 | MITSUMI EL | 1480 | 1480 |
| BAYER VER | 373.0 | 370.0 | BANK TOKYO | 1680 | 1700 | NICHICON | 1730 | 1780 | NICHICON | 1710 | 1660 |
| BBC | 390.0 | 379.0 | BRIDGESTON | 1480 | 1480 | NIHON CHNT | 1240 | 1230 | NIHON CHNT | 1420 | 1370 |
| BHF | 476.0 | 449.0 | CANON | 1710 | 1660 | NIKKO SEC | 1780 | 1790 | NIKKO SEC | 1600 | 1590 |
| BHN | 521.0 | 516.5 | CASIO COMP | 1590 | 1540 | NIP ELEC | 1790 | 1750 | NIP ELEC | 1590 | 1540 |
| COMMERZB | 247.0 | 245.0 | CHUGAI PHM | 1040 | 1000 | NIP OIL | 1670 | 1620 | NIP OIL | 1040 | 1000 |
| CONTI GERM | 260.0 | 255.0 | CITIZEN W | 3320 | 3350 | NIP STEEL | 920 | 924 | NIP STEEL | 1040 | 1000 |
| DATHER BEN | 690.5 | 681.6 | D-ICHI KAN | 913 | 908 | NIP YUSEN | 1050 | 985 | NIP YUSEN | 2300 | 2300 |
| DEUTSC BANK | 536.5 | 531.0 | DAI NIP PT | 2300 | 2300 | NIS MOTOR | 1540 | 1510 | NIS MOTOR | 1050 | 1050 |
| DLW | 498.0 | 495.0 | DAI NIP SC | 1050 | 980 | NOHARA SEC | 3360 | 3340 | NOHARA SEC | 1280 | 1000 |
| DRESDNER B | 329.0 | 326.5 | DAI NIP TO | 930 | 960 | ORIX CO | 1280 | 1200 | ORIX CO | 1170 | 1100 |
| DT-BARBEC | 176.50 | 171.65 | DARCEL | 1170 | 1180 | OLYMPUS | 1250 | 1200 | OLYMPUS | 1170 | 1100 |
| FAZ INDEX | D-523.02 | -- | DAIWA H | 2000 | 1950 | PIONEER | 1510 | 1500 | PIONEER | 1510 | 1500 |
| FELDMEIER | 3511.00 | 3500.00 | DAIWA SEC | 750 | 2650 | REINHOLD | 995 | 999 | REINHOLD | 1350 | 1350 |
| GOLDSCHMID | 404.00 | 400.00 | ERNA MFG | 2050 | 2000 | RICOH | 1240 | 1180 | RICOH | 2050 | 2000 |
| HARPERNS | 450.0 | 450.0 | EISAI | 1960 | 1920 | SANKYO | 2560 | 2550 | SANKYO | 1960 | 1920 |
| HOECHST AG | 304.5 | 303.5 | FUJITSU | 3420 | 3410 | SANTO ELEC | 914 | 926 | SANTO ELEC | 2140 | 2140 |
| HOESCH | 245.5 | 248.5 | FUJI PHOTO | 3380 | 3360 | SEIYU ST | 2140 | 2140 | SEIYU ST | 2140 | 2140 |
| HORTEN | 237.0 | 234.0 | FUJISAWA | 1680 | 1700 | SEKISUI PB | 1770 | 1750 | SEKISUI PB | 1680 | 1700 |
| HUSSEL MLD | 533.5 | 524.2 | FUJITA CP | 2050 | 2050 | SHARP | 1320 | 1300 | SHARP | 2050 | 2050 |
| KALI SALZ | 218.5 | 217.0 | HITACHI | 1540 | 1520 | SHISEIDO | 1680 | 1700 | SHISEIDO | 1540 | 1520 |
| KARSTADT | 473.0 | 454.0 | HONDA MOT | 1950 | 1880 | SONY | 6730 | 6690 | SONY | 1950 | 1880 |
| KAUFHOF | 445.5 | 433.0 | ISETAN | 2270 | 2290 | SUMIKOMO | 1630 | 1440 | SUMIKOMO | 2270 | 2290 |
| KLOECK H | 177.5 | 175.5 | ITO YOKADO | 3550 | 3570 | TAISEI | 1810 | 1820 | TAISEI | 3550 | 3570 |
| LINDE | 178.0 | 179.1 | JAP YOKADO | 1340 | 1330 | TAISHO MRN | 1330 | 1310 | TAISHO MRN | 1340 | 1330 |
| LUFTHANSA | 169.5 | 171.8 | JAPAN AIR | 16100 | 16200 | TAKEADA CH | 2570 | 2540 | TAKEADA CH | 16100 | 16200 |
| MAN | 281.0 | 280.0 | JAPAN MET | 1050 | 1020 | TEIJIN | 875 | 870 | TEIJIN</ | | |

Premier denies taking bribes

Takeshita acknowledges contributions

TOKYO, April 11, (AP): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today reversed his previous denial of receiving money from a company at the centre of a major scandal. Acknowledging he received 130 million yen (about \$1 million).

However, Takeshita told parliament's budget committee that the funds from the Recruit Co. were political donations and he denied receiving bribes.

The Recruit stock profiteering and bribery scandal has already involved some 160 politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats. Takeshita told parliament last year that he had never received any money from the information and publishing conglomerate.

Funds

"I am feeling political and moral responsibilities very strongly," he said today. "I think it is important to settle this matter legally and politically."

"I do not remember the details of my statement (last year), but I probably did not have a clear recollection of the matter then," he said.

Takeshita said Recruit donated 130

million yen (about \$1 million) between 1985 and 1987 to his political support groups in the form of donations and purchases of fund-raising party tickets.

The prime minister said the funds were handled strictly as political donations and denied opposition parties' claims that they were bribes.

"Political donations are indispensable elements for vital political activities which are said to be the foundation of a democratic society," he said. "But the widespread Recruit scandal and my position as a prime minister no longer allow me to speak in such a general terms."

Opposition parliamentarian Kanji Kawasaki of the Japan Socialist Party asked: "What was your understanding of Recruit's intention for such a large donation?"

Takeshita responded, "I am not in a position of telling the intent of another party's political donations."

Takeshita also denied any personal involvement in stock transactions by his personal secretary and relative in Recruit's real estate subsidiary. Shares of its stock

were sold at bargain prices before being listed; the purchasers reaped large profits when the stock went on the market.

A series of disclosures of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's links to the affair has generated demands from the political opposition that Takeshita resign and call election to allow the public to give its verdict on the scandal. Some members of his own party also want him to step down.

"Your hand is contaminated with money," said Kawasaki. "You must realize the ethics of Japan's democracy are being questioned. You should resign immediately."

Three people have resigned from the Takeshita's cabinet after acknowledging they continued to receive Recruit donations after the scandal erupted last summer. But Takeshita said he did not receive any funds from the firm after 1987.

The prime minister has refused all demands for his resignation, insisting he will stay in office to carry out political reforms.

So far, 14 people, including two vice-

ministers, have been arrested on charges of bribery and violating securities laws in connection with the Recruit scandal.

No politicians have been arrested, but prosecutors reportedly have begun to question politicians and their aides who received money or bought stock from Recruit.

Popular support for Takeshita has declined to the lowest level since opinion polls on prime minister began in 1945. One poll released yesterday showed Takeshita's approval rate at only 7.8 per cent.

"The public is not going to be satisfied with your explanations today," Kawasaki told Takeshita in parliament. "I think the frustration and anger of the public is on the verge of blowing up."

Said Yukihisa Yoshida of the Democratic Socialist Party, another major opposition group: "What we want is not an explanation from him (Takeshita) but the act of responsibility by resigning immediately."

"People can not tolerate having him (Takeshita) visit other countries as a prime minister so deeply contaminated by the Recruit scandal," Yoshida said yesterday.

Iran to tap Qatar's North gasfield

NICOSIA, April 11, (Reuters): Iran plans to develop part of Qatar's huge North Field gas reservoir that extends into its territorial waters.

"We plan to develop it very soon," Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh was quoted as saying by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) on Monday.

The North Field, with 380 trillion cubic feet of reserves, is considered the world's biggest single concentration of natural gas.

Aqazadeh told MEES that seismic surveys by a Dutch firm showed the reservoir extends at least 12 miles into Iranian waters and therefore about 30 per cent of the whole structure should lie on the Iranian side.

Iran made its first claim on the field last month. Qatari officials have so far not commented.

Claim

The Qatars must be concerned...but if the field extends to Iranian waters as they claim, there is nothing they could do to stop them (the Iranians) constructing their platforms," an oil industry source said.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said a confrontation between the two states was unlikely. Qatar might co-operate with Iran on developing the field if Tehran could substantiate its claims they added.

Qatar has started to develop the North Field and is expected to complete the first phase in late 1990, producing around 800 million cubic feet of gas per day for local use.

Taiwan boom lures mainland workers

TAIPEI, April 11, (UPI): Lured by the promise of the good life, mainland Chinese labourers are sneaking into Taiwan in ever-increasing numbers to fill low-paying jobs that local workers shun.

Police reports indicate at least 171 Chinese made the boat trip across the 100-mile (160 km) Taiwan Strait that separates China and Taiwan since January, dispersing mostly into towns along the northeastern and western coasts.

For these illegal immigrants, working on Taiwan for even one year means a subsequent life of luxury in China, where the average monthly pay is about \$32. Local factory workers earn a minimum of \$436 a month.

The majority of mainland men find jobs in factories or with construction companies, while women illegal immigrants end up as prostitutes or barmaids. But few complain, and those who are deported often vow to find a way to return, police sources said.

Chen Xiaohua, from the southern Chinese province of Fujian, stole onto a fishing boat to Taiwan because he had a \$800 debt, an amount impossible to repay on his salary, he said, adding that he had heard he could make "at least 40,000 new Taiwan dollars (\$1,455) a month here."

In November 1987, Taipei lifted a 38-year ban on travel to China for family visits, a move that opened the eyes of many mainland Chinese, who saw relatives returning to their hometowns laden with radios, television sets and cash.

For poor Chinese workers, Taiwan has become a magnet. For Taiwan employers, the attraction has been mutual.

Dogged by rising labour costs and a growing labour shortage, factory owners often hire illegal aliens. There also are some

Asiana, Gulf Air to spend \$1.4 b

Airlines order Boeing planes

WASHINGTON, April 11, (AP): Airlines based in South Korea and the Middle East plan to spend a combined \$1.4 billion buying jetliners from the Boeing Co., officials announced today.

Asiana Airlines of South Korea will spend about \$1 billion to buy nine Boeing 767s and take options on seven more because the new airline doesn't want to risk its reputation on older planes, an Asiana executive said.

In a separate announcement today, Gulf Air of Bahrain said it will spend \$1 billion over the next five years to buy six Boeing 767s and 12 Airbus Industrie A-320s.

The combined value of the Asiana and Gulf Air orders to Boeing would be worth about \$1.4 billion.

S.Y. Park, chairman of Kumho Business Group, Asiana's parent company, said that in addition to wanting new planes, it chose Boeing because the Seattle-based plane builder took the new airplane seriously.

Operations

Asiana, based in Seoul, South Korea, began operations within that country on Dec. 23. It said it will use its new jets to expand to other Asian markets and eventually to North America and Europe.

"In the short-term, we could have saved a few dollars by buying or leasing older planes," Park said. "However, a new airline has

enough problems establishing its market base without the burden of heavy maintenance responsibilities and the uncertainty of whether older planes will perform reliably."

Asiana ordered five 737-400s and took options for another five. It also signed letters of intent to order two 747-400 jumbo jets and take options for two more, and to convert two previous options for widebody 767-300s to firm orders.

Boeing normally doesn't announce letters of intent, said Boeing commercial airplanes spokesman Randy Harrison, but Asiana had made it clear it intended to buy the planes.

Harrison described a letter of intent as just short of an order, with the major difference being no money is paid to begin construction.

Largest

A 747-400, the world's largest passenger jet, sells for \$116 million to \$136 million each, depending on configuration and equipment, Boeing says. The smaller 737-400 twinjet sells for \$31 million to \$36 million while a widebody 767-300 goes for \$66 million to \$73 million.

Asiana began its Korean service on Dec. 23 with six 737-400s leased from GPA Group Ltd.

Deliveries of Asiana's new planes will begin in July 1992 and continue through June 1993.

Spending

Abdel-Karim said the 18 new jets will be delivered between 1990 and 1994. Gulf Air is currently spending \$260 million to lease four Boeing 767-300s as part of modernisation programme.

The airline last week secured a \$208-million loan from 22 international and regional banks to cover part of the modernisation. It expects to cover the balance of \$52 million with a similar credit from Japanese institutions.

Abdel-Karim said that by June the airline will have nine Lockheed L-1011 Tri-stars, eight Boeing 737s and six Boeing 767-300s. The fleet will increase to 40 by 1994, he added.

The 15-year loan carries an annual interest of 6.2 per cent.

Biman flying high

BIMAN Bangladesh Airlines during the first six months of operations in the fiscal year 1988-89 carried 3,578 passengers and 40,827 kg of cargo from Kuwait to Dhaka.

Biman flies one direct flight to Kuwait.

Biman earned an operational profit of Taka 1.5 crore (about half million US dollars) during the same period as compared to a loss of about Taka 12 crore during the last fiscal year 1987-1988.

Biman's traffic grew by 14 per cent in comparison with the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

Sales revenue earnings were 10 percent more than the earning of the corresponding period of 1987.

Between July to December 1988 Biman carried a total of 5,18,445 passengers as compared to 4,54,919 for the corresponding period in 1987.

Passenger

The number of passengers on the international routes marked a steady growth of five per cent and the growth rate was 21 per cent on the domestic route.

The maximum growth of traffic was recorded in the regional flights. A total of 97,428 passengers travelled by Biman on its regional routes in the last six months of 1988 compared to 79,908 during the same period last year. A 22 per cent growth rate in this sector was recorded.

\$2.8 million EIB loan for Jordan

LUXEMBOURG, April 11, (AP): The European Investment Bank today granted a loan of \$2.8 million to help fund investments by small commercial outlets in Jordan through that country's Cities and Villages Development Bank.

The 15-year loan carries an annual interest of 6.2 per cent.



Calibre '89

President of Swiss watchmakers Patek Philippe holds a watch called Calibre '89 which manufacturers claim is the most sophisticated in the world, which sold at auction for record \$2.72 million this weekend. The 18-carat gold watch weighs 1.1 kilo, has two dials and 1,728 parts.

"We don't want what happened in Venezuela to happen to us, with such drastic measures as freezing wages and increasing interest rates," Gonzalo Carrias, president of Honduras Central Bank, told reporters in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, recently.

Warned

Nicaragua's businessmen and officials, including President Daniel Ortega, have warned that if the domestic economic situation worsens, violent riots could explode across Nicaragua — Central America's largest debtor nation.

Nicaragua's eight-year-old civil war has cost some 50,000 lives and caused damage to electrical towers, roads, bridges, buildings, crops and military equipment totaling \$12 billion.

There has been some debate about the exact size of Nicaragua's foreign debt, but the generally accepted figure currently is about \$6.5 billion, with some opposition economists saying it may be as high as \$12 billion.

"The debt is owed to private foreign banks, governments primarily in Eastern Europe and to multilateral agencies.

But until recently the government kept all economic information secret.

Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government last renegotiated its foreign debt in 1982. Since then, it had defaulted on an unknown amount of its debt, and many lending agencies and Western European governments cut off credit lines in mid-1980s.

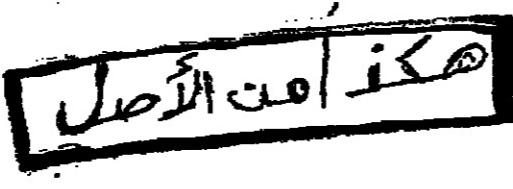


Marlboro Lights



The spirit of Marlboro in a light cigarette.

GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAIN CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.



Central American debt crisis worsens

MEXICO CITY, April 11, (UPI): Violence-torn Central America has been in the shadow of Latin America's four largest debtor nations — Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and now Venezuela — since the onset of the foreign debt crisis in 1982.

But the debt bomb is ticking away in Central America. The region's per capita foreign debt is \$1,000, compared to per capita debt of \$350 in Brazil, the developing world's largest debtor nation.

Honduras recently rejected economic measures proposed by the International Monetary Fund that included the adoption of policies similar to those that sparked a wave of violence in March. Some 300 people died in the skirmishes.

"We don't want what happened in Venezuela to happen to us, with such drastic measures as freezing wages and increasing interest rates," Gonzalo Carrias, president of Honduras Central Bank, told reporters in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, recently.

He said his country has stopped all payments on its foreign debt of \$3.2 billion until an acceptable agreement is reached with the IMF. The fund suggested the Honduran government adopt drastic measures to heal its economy, such as reducing its deficit, freezing wages, increasing taxes, raising interest rates and pushing up public service prices.

A spokesman said the company began considering a sale of the associates in September 1988, but only retained investment bankers Lazar Freres and Co on Friday.

Gulf and Western also owns the publishing houses Simon and Schuster and Prentice Hall, as well as the New York Knicks basketball team and the New York Rangers ice hockey team.

The consumer and Commercial Finance Business, called the associates, is worth more than \$3 billion, according to industry analysts.

A spokesman said Gulf and Western's board of directors approved plans to sell the unit on Friday, but the company has not yet entered talks with potential bidders.

Industry analysts have called Gulf and Western a candidate for a major restructuring following the recent giant mergers in the media industry, most notably the proposed combination of the entertainment and publishing conglomerates Time Inc and Warner Communications Inc.

"We have concluded that the current market dynamics and the

EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

VIDEO CORNER

Lame jokes are not enough

By Gail Seery

IT'S a sad but well-known fact that when a parent remarries, children may find it difficult to come to terms with the new partner. Jesse is a young girl who has often hoped that her scientist father will find a new wife, and at first glance Celeste appears just right. What Jesse doesn't like is that her stepmother eats batteries and has heat proof hands.

My Stepmother is an Alien is a title which doesn't leave much to the imagination. That's a great shame as there isn't very much in the story either. Dan Ackroyd, the veteran of more than his fair share of silly

movies, plays a gifted scientist who accidentally manages to send a radar/laser message out of the galaxy, and then gets the sack. He has no proof that his transmission went so far, and nor is he certain why it suddenly became so powerful. Nobody seems to care.

The same night a spaceship arrives on earth. Out gets Celeste played by Kim Basinger, carrying a weird handbag with superpowers, and a built-in observer/advisor. Celeste has been sent to earth to find out about the transmission and to make him do it again. If she fails, her planet will be doomed.

Ho Hum. Here we have *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*,

E.T. and countless other science fiction fantasies all rolled into one. I enjoy science fiction much as anyone, but the usual characteristics of the successful film story is originality, if only in terms of the special effects. This film has nothing new to offer in that line, and my boredom threshold was passed very early on in the film. I mean, how many times are we going to be confronted with the once novel and amusing idea that if a spaceship did land nobody would notice?

In many ways it's a shame that the story line is so inadequate, as the three leading roles, Professor Mills, Celeste and daughter Jesse are played

superbly. Celeste is learning about earth, and has been inadequately briefed — for some reason she thinks we use spinach to keep our hands warm — and there is some comedy in our discoveries and her goofs — so long as you can stand the asinine chuckles of course.

Then, in the final few minutes it becomes clear. The whole film is one massive excuse for Dan Ackroyd and Kim Basinger to do a Jiminy Durante impression/routine. This saves the earth, as the superbeing concerned, who incidentally is busily impersonating Obi Wan Kenobi from *Star Wars*, decides that "earth

is too weird to be suppressed." A disgusting factor about this film is that, like *Twin*, it has four writers. If it takes four writers to put this together, we can also assume that they have not yet graduated from kindergartens. In fact the only positive role I can think of for four writers, is all sitting together and saying, "To heck with verisimilitude — they can't sack us all!" This film is a series of steals, and lame jokes based on the flimsy original idea of a stepmother from another planet. As in *Twin* last week, this is not enough. On the other hand, if you're an insomniac, this film could do wonders for you.

Fair smoking policy

Swiss Air, a leader in the air travel industry, announced recently that it will stick to its present policy of accommodating both non-smokers and smokers on board its flights. The decision came after Air France started, on a trial basis, a non-smoking flight between Paris and Geneva and announced that it will experiment non-smoking flights on two other destinations, London and Milan.

SAS, the Scandinavian airline had previously tested non-smoking flights and decided against them.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL April 13: Yemeni artist Abdullah Al Amin will show his latest paintings at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex. The exhibition will be open from 9 am to 12.00 noon and 7-10 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum

OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm.

Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world on show.

Sadu House

SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

THEATRE

Reflections

April 22-27 (8.30 pm): The School of Contemporary Dance will present a repertoire of ballet entitled "Reflections" at the Moussetrap Theatre to celebrate their 15th anniversary. Tickets — KD 4. Box office open from 4-6.30 pm. Sat-Wed; ticket order: answer phone — 5382099, 2-6 pm.

Hindi play

MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Narya Bharati presents Hindi play entitled "Bin Baati ke Deep", followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact: Tel: 488095; 533248; or Val Tudball — 5272159.

CINEMA

British Council

April 15/16, (6.30 pm): To the Lighthouse, a film version of Virginia Woolf's novel, is this month's feature film. It is summer of 1912 and the Ramsay family is once again on holiday in Cornwall. Six-year-old James' ambition to go to the lighthouse is constantly thwarted by his father. The children begin to resent their tyrannical father and the family slowly breaks up after the death of Mrs. Ramsay. Ten years later, the family returns to Cornwall to a very different atmosphere.

Starring: Michael Caine and Rosemary Harris. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515312; 2533203; 2533227.

SOCIAL

Bharati Kalai Mandram

April 14: Bharati Kalai mandram, the Tamil association in Kuwait will celebrate their fourth annual day at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Her party

April 14: The Bangladesh Association will hold an iftar party at the embassy premises in Jabiya. All Bangladeshis are invited.

Kuwait Little Theatre

April 20: KLT, Ahmadi, will present entertainment to celebrate the St. Georges Day at



Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man*; Hoffman won an Oscar, his second, for his role.

charter a yacht so he can take his wife Helen (Dunaway) — recently blinded by glaucoma — on a 20th wedding anniversary cruise to the Caribbean.

In fact, Barton was one of those thieving Navy men and now wants to retrieve the home. The father of the character, Jeff (Hoffman), is blind, and though he (Hoffman) was his partner in crime and the son has the correct co-ordinates to collect the money.

Also (just to complicate matters) Jeff's wife Lexi (Carrall) who has also been invited along for the trip is actually Barton's mistress and accomplice. Posing only to draw breath, we learn that Helen was once Jeff's father's lover and is not really blind at all. All this has to be taken with a pinch of salt and if you can manage that, it isn't a bad adventure story.

Without a Trace is a very well-written film which blends the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and his creator into a strange seem-

less whole. Dr Watson (Ben Kingsley) is here, as is the evil mastermind Professor Moriarty (Paul Freedman), matronly housekeeper Mrs Hudson (Pat Keen) and even the painfully inferior police inspector Lestrade (Jeffrey Jones). But in this world Watson is the unluckiest detective. Holmes is only a literary figure of Watson's imagination, created to keep Watson's early medical career free from the taint of frivolity. Unexpectedly forced to produce this crime-solving Holmes fellow, Watson resorts to hiring a cowardly, alcoholic, amoral, dim-witted and determinedly lecherous out-of-work actor named Reginald Kincaid (Michael Caine) to impersonate him.

It would be difficult to imagine anyone less like the virtuous Holmes than Kincaid and this gives rise to many comic situations.

Watson becomes tired of Kincaid's loutish behaviour and throws him out, but he finds that not many people are enamoured of a sleuthing physician and is not even allowed to visit crime scenes without being accompanied by Holmes/Kincaid. This forces the good doctor to drag his weak-minded alter-ego everywhere with him. After his brilliant performance in *Gandhi*, Ben Kingsley has suffered from being thought of as rather dour and serious, he dispels this image in *Without a Trace* with a hilarious send-up performance, evocative at times of John Cleese's Basil Fawlty or maybe Peter Sellers at the height of his powers. Some of the withering glances that Watson receives for Kincaid as he soaks up the accolades are a joy to watch.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nauj, Sabriya; and Video Club Sabriya.

Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley in *Without a Trace*. Kingsley appears in the role of a sleuth in the movie.



Bharati Kalai Mandram, an association of Tamil speaking people from India, recently celebrated "The Adult Day" at the Indian Embassy hall. A debate on "Wife for husband or husband for wife?" was also held.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

11.00 Holy Quran
11.30 Al Madrasah Al Mohammadiyah religious serial

12.15 Cartoon

12.30 Cultural film

1.30 Cartoon serial

2.00 Al Nabi Ha Hinna historical serial, starring Mahmoud Yaseen, Madina Kamel, Amina Rizk, Ibtahal Deeni

3.15 Daeraat Al Naar: Arabic serial, starring Talhat Hamdi, Saman Sami, Rashid Asaf

4.30 Musabiqat Al Ramadhan

5.00 Al Ribaya: Arabic serial, starring Noora, Yusuf Shabani, Salih Saadani, Ahmad Maher

5.50 Hadith Deeni

6.00 Quran Al Kareem

6.30 Safinat Al Asqafah: cartoon serial

7.00 B'aad Al Iftar: Hadith Deeni

7.15 Al Tam'aem: serial for children, starring Khalid Al Obaid, Ali Mufeedi, Munira Essaa

8.00 With Students

9.00 Folklore

9.30 Musabiqat Ramadhan

10.00 News in Arabic

10.50 A'ad Wa Lakin: Arabic serial, starring Ghaneem Al Saleh, Hayat Al Fahad, Maryam Ghadban, Dawood Hussein

11.45 Asakum An Awada, presented by Rasha Majidi.

12.00 Al Talathah: daily serial, featuring Mahmoud Mursi,



The Huxtable family returns with more comedy in the Bill Cosby Show

Ma'ali Zayed.

1.00 Sabratah Al Laila: variety show, prepared by Darwah Barjawi, presented by N. M. Idrees. Tonight's guest is Kuwaiti actor Ghaneem Al Saleh.

2.15 News Summary

2.20 World News via Satellite

2.50 Holy Quran/ Close-down

Waist". Sonny is a private detective who helps people in trouble. In tonight's episode, he helps a girl get rid of a blackmailer.

10.30 Bill Cosby Show:

Denise decides to quit school. Starring: Bill Cosby, Phylicia Ayers-Rashad.

11.00 Just for the Record: a series about people who set new records in various fields

11.30 "Cat n' Mouse Kill-ing": Nick moves to a new town and plans a bank robbery with the help of his girlfriend.

1.00 News Summary/Holy Quran/ Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 Islamic Horizons

8.20 Cartoons

8.30 Danger Bay: "Eye of the Storm". Nicole finds a friend in the midst of a storm.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Ahadith Qadsiya: religious programme

9.45 Sonny Spoon: "Crimes Below the

PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newscast

0100 News Summary followed by Outlook

0200 World News

0300 Financial News

0400 Help Yourself

0500 Country Style

0600 World News

0700 British Press Review

0800 Tech Talk

0900 Music

0900 World News

0900 News About Britain

1000 The World Today

1000 Discovery

1000 Newsdesk

1000 Business Matters

1000 Newsdesk

1000 The Learning World

1000 After Henry

1000 World News

1000 News About Britain

1000 The World Today

1000 Discovery

1000 Newsdesk

1000 Business Matters

1000 Newsdesk

1000 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

1000 Financial News

1000 Words of Faith

1000 The World Today

A special quiz for the holy month

Test your knowledge about Islam

1. Which Arabic word means submission — submission to the will of God?

2. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born in Mecca in 570 AD. What were the names of his parents?

3. The Prophet lost his parents when he was six; who brought him up thereafter?

4. What was the Prophet's first wife's name?

5. What is the Hadith?

6. All Muslims accept the "five pillars" of the Islamic faith laid down in one of the Prophet's Hadith. What are these five pillars?

7. What was Madina formerly called?

8. The code name for the joint attack of Egypt and Syria on Israel, in 1973, derives its name from the battle fought in 624 AD by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). What was it?

9. Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) uncle who was very hostile to his preachings, is the only individual cursed by name in the Holy Quran. Who is he?

10. Spot the odd one out: Zaid-ibn Harith; Zainab; Fatima; Al-Qasim; Abdullah; Ruqayya and Umm Kulthum.

11. Name the first four Caliphs after Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and what were they collectively known as?

12. Besides the minaret, the mihrab is a common feature of almost all mosques. What is it?

13. Muslims are obliged to fast during the month of Ramadan

1. Islam

2. Abdullah and Aminah

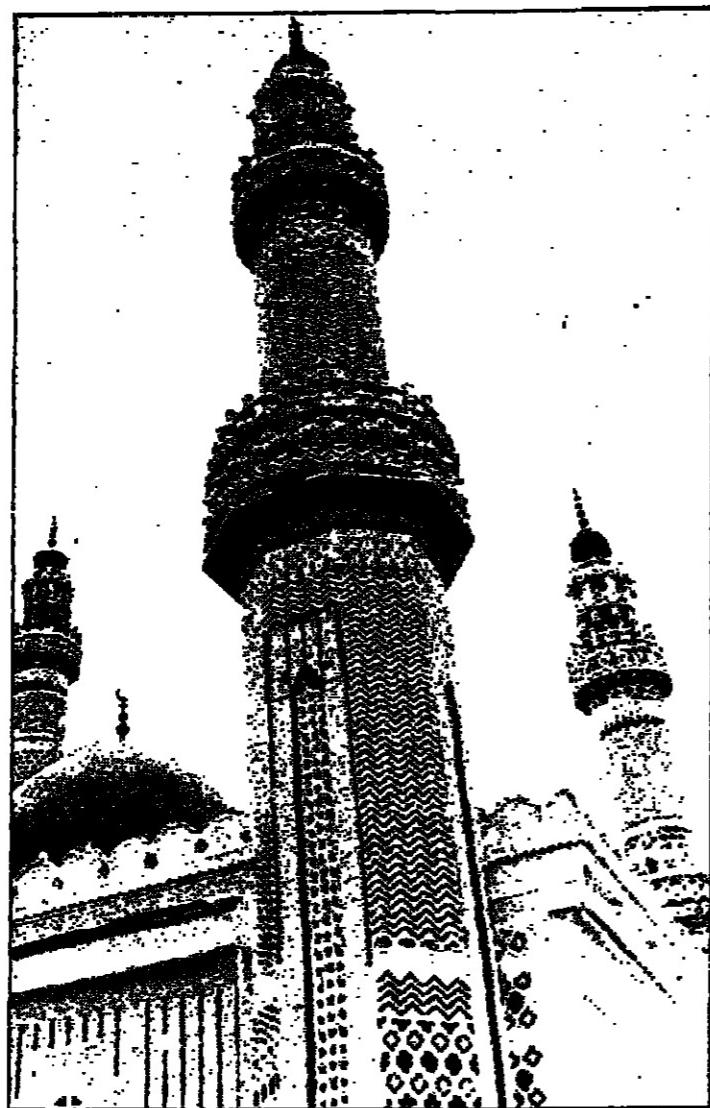
3. His grandfather Abdul Muttalib and, thereafter, his uncle Abu Talib

4. Khadija

5. Although the Holy Quran is the fundamental immutable source of Islamic doctrine and practice, on matters not made clear by the Holy Quran reference is made to the saying of the Prophet. The compilation of his utterances on religious practices, social affairs and Quranic interpretation is called the Hadith.

6. The five pillars are the profession of faith, daily prayer, giving alms, fasting in the month of Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Makka.

7. Yathrib



from dawn to dusk. According to the Holy Quran when does dawn commence?

14. What is the Shahada and which country has emblazoned it on its national flag?

15. Where did Prophet

Muhammad (PBUH) preach his last sermon?

16. Name the fanatical Muslim school which was crushed by the Caliphs of the seventh century. What did they seek to make the sixth pillar of the Islamic faith?

ANSWERS

8. Operation Badr (from the Battle of Badr)

9. Abu Lahab

10. Zaid-ibn Harith — the adopted son of the Prophet. All the others were his own children by his first wife Khadija

11. Known as Rashidun (rightly guided) the four Caliphs were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali.

12. The mihrab is a niche or indentation in the wall indicating the direction of Makka towards which the believers face while praying.

13. When it becomes possible to tell a white thread from a black one in the first light of day.

14. Of the five pillars of the Islamic faith, the first pillar is the *Shahada*, the profession of faith: There is no God but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God. It is emblazoned on the flag of Saudi Arabia.

15. Arafat

16. Kharjites. They sought to make jihad, ie. struggle to support or defend Islam, the sixth pillar of the Islamic faith.

17. Gabriel.

18. The Holy Quran has 114 suras. Each sura, except sura nine begins with the words, "In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful."

19. An act of apostasy. It may be committed verbally by

denying a principle or belief, or by action, for example, treating a copy of the Holy Quran with disrespect.

20. Bilquis

21. She has to complete three menstrual cycles before she may remarry.

22. The awaited one or the Imam who will return to be the spiritual guide of the community.

24. Kabir

25. Zamzam

26. A *fatawa*, i.e. a pronouncement issued by a religious authority that represents their viewpoint on some controversial issue.

27. (b) Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Bilquis

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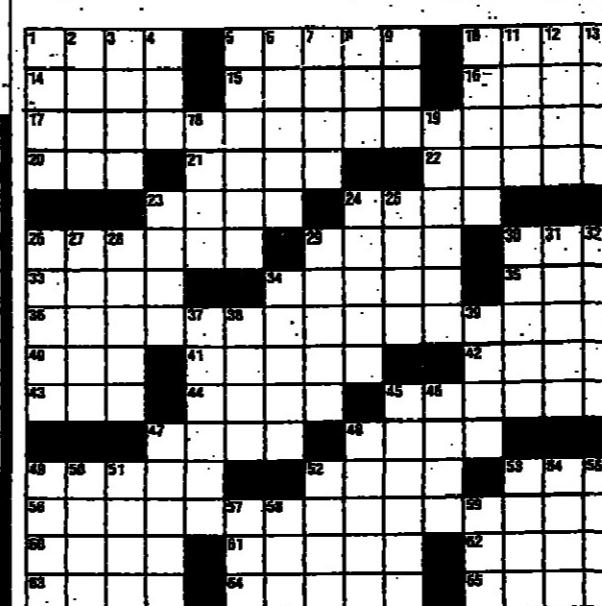
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27. (b) Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 48 Receptions | 24 Soviet republic |
| 1 Item for stringing | 49 Haberdasher | 25 Golf tournament |
| 5 Fact | 52 Bridge position | 26 Load |
| 10 Sound | 53 Spelling or | 27 Celestial hunter |
| 14 One of Woody's children | sewing affair | 28 Dissipate |
| 15 Checks 9 Down | 56 in hot pursuit | 29 Angler's basket |
| 16 Malayan boat | 60 Shelter of a sort | 30 Fence steps |
| 17 Have — (be bored) | 61 — Hall, | 31 Knight wear |
| 20 Type measures | College, New Jersey | 32 Lhasa's country |
| 21 Lime users, often | 62 Cobbler's model | 34 Following |
| 22 Uneven | 63 Citric quenchers | 37 Emissary |
| 23 Sugar source | 64 Saccharine | 38 Munich's river |
| 24 Raced | 65 Patella site | 39 Research places |
| 26 Playwright Noel | 29 — pie (from head to foot) | 45 Show indignation |
| 29 — pie (from head to foot) | 30 Posed | 46 Pledge |
| 30 Posed | 33 Islands in Galway Bay | 47 Emily of etiquette et al. |
| 33 Islands in Galway Bay | 34 Soviet cooperative | 48 Lake near Reno |
| 34 Soviet cooperative | 35 Corn or sect starter | 49 Official records |
| 35 Corn or sect starter | 36 Take a big chance | 50 Tundra |
| 36 Take a big chance | 40 Comprehended | 51 Fountain treat |
| 41 Glyceride | 42 Cosmetic ingredient | 52 Kitchen follower |
| 42 Cosmetic ingredient | 43 Small bill | 53 Kind of bag or ball |
| 43 Small bill | 44 Isle of Man native | 54 Otherwise |
| 44 Isle of Man native | 45 Frost or Preston | 55 Punta del — |
| 45 Frost or Preston | 47 Young salmon | 57 Predecessor of CIA |
| 47 Young salmon | | 58 Novel |

DOWN

1 Diminish

2 — go bragh"

3 Donations

4 Bunny's mother

5 Gainesaid

6 Vote to accept

7 Containers

8 Colorado Indian Novel drafts:

9 Novel drafts: Abbr.

10 Reserve

11 Apennines stream

12 Gestures of agreement

13 Mollify

18 Finished

19 Royal messenger

23 Piggy or penny

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A BIT OF EGG NOG HELPS

North-South vulnerable. West that the bidding was at the six-level by the time it was his turn to bid. Undaunted, he entered the fray with six spades.

West was not the sort to be pushed around, especially under the circumstances prevailing. He bid seven hearts, smartly doubled by North. But South did not feel like defending, so he pulled to seven spades, doubled by West in a fit of pique.

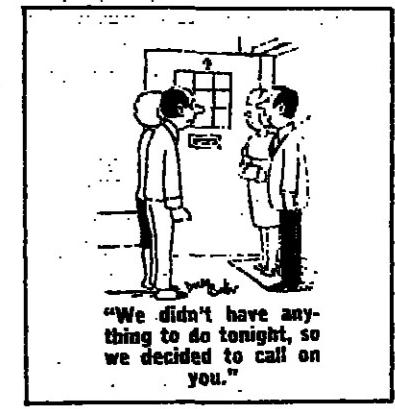
West led the king of hearts, ruffed by declarer. The queen of clubs was covered by the king and taken by the ace. When East showed out, declarer ran all his trumps, and West was hopelessly squeezed in hearts and clubs. He had to hold the king of hearts to guard against the queen becoming a trick, so he could hang on to only one club. The lady was cleared from the table, and the jack-six of clubs took the last two tricks. The score was 2,470 points.

At the other table East bought the contract at seven diamonds doubled, and South led the queen of clubs. Dummy's king was put up and the ace was ruffed out. After two rounds of trumps, a heart to the king revealed that North had a sure trick in that suit. So, the ten of clubs was led for a ruffing finesse. Whether or not North covered, declarer would be able to set up the suit for three heart discards, since the ace of hearts was still on the board as an entry. That was 1,630 points, making a total of 4,100 points for four very happy players.

They were part of a group that met every New Year's Eve for some team bridge and had lots of time for imbibing a punch liberally laced with rum and brandy and sprinkled with nutmeg. It was well into the wee hours when this hand was dealt. No one at the table was feeling any pain and South, who picked up what he considered to be a rather good hand, was surprised to find

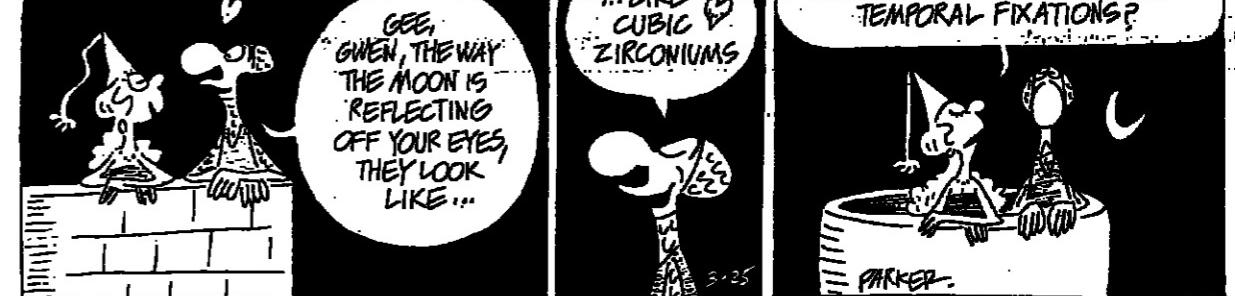
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

| | | | |
|------------|------------|-------|------|
| CAPT | PLE | BE | GOSH |
| ADOS | RIGID | ABES | |
| DADE | EVANGELIST | | |
| IMITATED | AVAST | | |
| SATEEN | PASTIMES | | |
| AARTS | SARS | ANISE | |
| BRIM | EMITS | ESSE | |
| ROSEN | BEEPS | OER | |
| ENTAILED | REIGNS | | |
| STIR | FANDANCE | | |
| LIBRETTIST | LIAR | | |
| OTOE | LEASE | ISMIS | |
| BEES | ENTER | ATEE | |



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Johnny Hart

B.C.

deliver



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should have a little more faith in yourself and what you are doing. Do not spend too much time on a hobby. A decision you have been putting off should be reached without much further delay. Be less obstinate.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

No everything will be to your liking but you will be able to make the most of what is. Avoid living in the past, concentrate on the present and the future. Keep calm even when others are not. Be tolerant.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

As I valiantly tried to suppress a snicker, something spiteful and insecure in my nature arose...it suddenly occurred to me why some people make a habit of giving incomplete recipes. Who wants to share glory?

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Try to be a little more independent. You will be able to determine what it is you are doing wrong and correct it. You must take better care of your health. Be hopefully.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Before you do what you like doing you must get on with the chores that you do not like doing. If you hesitate to eat too many sweet things try to restrain yourself. Avoid acting on impulse and do not jump to conclusions. Be firm.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should not insist that you are altogether right and others are absolutely wrong. Instead try to meet them halfway. Stick to your principles and beware of running out of steam. Be principled.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should listen carefully to what others are saying. And do take notice of other people's opinions even if you do not agree with them. Take great care whilst driving or walking or cycling. Be strict with yourself.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Do not believe that what you like doing you must be always in. Your lucky numbers are 57 and 16. You are liable to eat too many sweet things, try to restrain yourself. Avoid acting on impulse and do not jump to conclusions. Be firm.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be able to set your children a good example and should do so. Do not think you are too old to learn something new, only if you do are you. Take a new look at something you have been taking for granted. Be forgiving.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should face up to

Tutankhamen's secrets revealed

Ancient cures for modern ills

Herbs and spices were vital to ancient Egyptian cookery as well as health care. A new book brings some of these traditional treatments back to life. Quite a few of these techniques are equally valuable today.

By Christine Doyle

LISE MANNICHE is the sort of Egyptologist any holidaymaker would be glad to meet while cruising down the Nile or exploring tombs of the ancient Kings.

She lives in a tiny Cambridgeshire village but visits Egypt every year to gather material for her books about the intimate lives of ordinary people from 4,000 years ago.

"I am fascinated by them: Egyptians have everything to offer - art, beauty, sensuality and mystery. I like to get under their skin."

She gossips rather than lectures about these ancient "friends," switching from an Alexandrian sauce for grilled fish, to a face cleanser, a remedy for crying baby, rheumatism or lice, even a potent aphrodisiac.

In an earlier book called Sexual Life In Ancient Egypt (Routledge and Kegan Paul) she covered their erotic customs with a compelling wealth of drawings.

Her new book, *An Ancient Egyptian Herbal* (Published by British Museum Publications), reports on the daily reliance on herbs by cooks, doctors and beauticians.

Her book is a scrupulously researched guide to more than 90 species of trees, herbs and plants. While many uses are hinted at in texts and illustrations by the early Egyptians and Copts, there is no specific ancient Egyptian herbal.

She said: "I felt we knew very little about their herbal tradition, even though many of the herbs and spices, such as thyme, garlic or cumin, are on sale today or used in modern remedies."

Link

Dr Manniche might also have drawn a link between the ancient Egyptian interest in porridge oats to treat the heart and today's use for lowering risk of a coronary.

The ancient diet was wholesome, containing many fibrous fruit and vegetables. "Teeth did not suffer through decay, but they were often worn down from the sand in their food."

Dr Manniche speculates that the young Tutankhamun, along with many of his subjects, may have been particularly concerned with personal fertility and "rebirth." Among fragments of plants and herbs found in his tomb are many associated with childbirth, such as fir resin and juniper berries.

The drawings from original sources are enchanting: the ancient gardeners pick figs (then, as ever, a powerful laxative), collect dates, or pile up fragrant herbs for funerary boats, courtyard and gardens with acacia, myrtle, chervil, sweet basil and almond. Tourists might wish, like the author, "for the reconstruction of an old Egyptians garden to rest in after a dusty morning touring tombs."

The ancient Egyptians were highly skilled in the sensible use of herbs and spices and Dr Manniche is working with Paris perfumer to market an original scent. One of her illustrations is of a frieze showing the making of perfumed unguent cakes and the curious scented waxed cones fixed by Egyptian women to their crowns or attached to their wigs.

De rigueur during festive occasions, the wax softened and possibly even melted to envelop the body and wig with grease and scent of myrrh, sweet marjoram or sweet flag. "This was all part of the ancient Egyptians' concern with being ready for rebirth," she said. "Wigs and hair were so sexually important that partners were quite likely to put on wigs to go to bed."

Dr Manniche, who started her researches with lost tombs, keeps the historical perspective in her personal life. She grows "a historical garden with old herbs and roses" and she keeps a rare Icelandic horse, one of a handful in this country. Now she is researching ancient Egyptian horses for a new book.



Author Lise Manniche with ancient hieroglyphics and her new book.

At a time when increasingly we refer to traditional treatments for their relevance today, this new herbal breaks fresh ground when so many herb books and pamphlets published each year do little more than attractively recirculate what is already well known.

Health secrets of the Pharaohs

● **Pain-killers.** Dill was soothing, digestive, relieved colicky pains in crying babies and even hiccups. One all-purpose pain-killer was "dill mixed with dates, raisins, wine, boiled and four days". Cumin combined in an soothing unguent with moringa oil, juniper berries and other ingredients to massage a splitting headache.

Other remedies include: "lettuce juice", marjoram and hyssop boiled together to relieve earache; a marjoram "rub" to ease rheumatism and headaches, the leaves being chewed to soothe toothache. Crushed dates helped a stomach ache.

● **Love potions.** Coriander was very popular, taken either alone or mixed with fresh garlic and wine, perhaps as a dressing for a salad or as meat marinade. Another reputed aphrodisiac was the powdered rhizome of sweet flag, an aromatic perennial; less delectably this doubled as a dry shampoo or ant repellent. Starchy leaf bases of wild bananas, and the poisonous but "magical" mandrake plant were also added to love potions.

● **Heart cures.** Today porridge oats and bran are claimed to lower fatty cholesterol in the blood and lower heart disease risk, so perhaps the ancients were on the right track with one heart "cure" which included figs with porridge and honey.

Fresh dates, an Egyptian staple food then and now, were also thought beneficial when combined with honey and sweet beet, or with melon, figs, honey and "dew".

● **Sneeze check.** To counteract an attack of the sneezes, apply date juice plentifully to the opening of the nose.

● **Rejuvenation.** One book on "making an old man into a young man" suggests taking two sacks of fenugreek seeds in their pods, and making a flour dough which when baked releases an oil which "is a million times efficient" in leaving skin beautiful.

An apparently successful remedy for wrin-



kles: grind together equal parts of gum of frankincense, moringa oil, cyperus grass, the dried edible tubers are the famous Egyptian Tiger Nuts which taste like wrinkled hazelnuts, and fermented plant juice.

● **Tiger Nut Sweets.** From a 1500 BC recipe. Grind tiger nuts to a flour — could substitute hazelnuts — add honey and mix to a dough. Put in vessel on top of fire, add a little oil and boil gently to produce a firm paste.

● **To banish fleas.** Leaves of fleabane, a large perennial weed, common in Europe and Asia and which have a penetrating smell disliked by animals, were commonly used.

● **To calm a cough.** Cumin, or crushed dates mixed with honey and yoghurt or milk also helped with women's "complaints".

● **Remedies.** Cumin was said to ease pain after giving birth. Onion ground to a paste and made into a suppository could stave off menstruation.

Conversely, infusions of juniper along with such things as cumin, frankincense and bone marrow might induce menstrual cycles in a woman who was barren, and in a suppository it was used to induce childbirth and perhaps to cause an abortion.

A small shrub with lavender like flowers and known in modern times as the "chaste tree" was thought to reduce libido in men. Now a hormone-like substance is extracted from the plant for use in a drug for premenstrual tension.

● **Face and hair restores.** A favourite with Lise Manniche. For a "really effective facial scrub" mix together equal parts of honey, bicarbonate of soda and salt. For falling lustre hair, which was considered a threat to libido, chopped lettuce applied to the head was a restorer, while white lotus leaves boiled and steeped in oil and placed on the head of a hated rival would cause her hair to fall out.

In climes that are more considerate of your skin.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Though tremors may be caused by neurological problems, they also attack us as we advance in age. "Senile tremor" may affect any part of the body, but it most often causes hands to shake and makes the tasks of daily life difficult if not impossible to perform. Though the cause of tremor in the elderly is still poorly defined, there are many treatments that may help control the shakes and ease the embarrassment of quavering voice and spilled coffee. However, much more research and education are needed to clarify both the causes and the cures, and to make those who are afflicted with tremors aware of possible treatments.

Protect damaged skin from additional exposure; use moisturizers to treat chapped lips. If winter weather is truly unbearable and your lifestyle and circumstances permit, you might consider spending this time of the

Cold weather causes itchy skin

QUESTION: Every year at the same time I develop a terrible itch all over my body that is often more than I can bear. I've tried a number of antihistamines with little success. Do you have any suggestions that might help?

ANSWER: Your description, the time of the year and your postmark all help me to determine that you are probably suffering from the effects that cold winter weather may inflict on your skin.

The colder air of winter fails to hold the amount of humidity or moisture that the warmer breezes do, and as a result our skin literally "dries out," becoming itchy as a result, and makes our fingertips crack and our lips chap. If, in addition, your sweat glands are a bit less active, or your body oils are decreased due to your own body chemistry, or advancing years, your susceptibility to this annoyance is increased.

The problem may run in families par-

ticularly where there is a history of allergies, asthma and skin problems. It may be aggravated by a commonly used remedy, for aches and pains that come with cold weather — soaking hands and feet in warming baths or tubs. This extracts the oils in the skin even more, as can too frequent bathing and washing and the use of too much soap.

When winter skin dryness strikes, there are a number of ways you can help yourself, but an antihistamine is not one of them. Try to limit your washing and bathing and switch to a mild soap, one with low alkaline content, that contains oil- or skin moisturizers. Use skin moisturizers and lotions after bathing. Over-the-counter products do just fine.

Protect damaged skin from additional exposure; use moisturizers to treat chapped lips. If winter weather is truly unbearable and your lifestyle and circumstances permit, you might consider spending this time of the

year in climates that are more considerate of your skin.

I'LL TRY IT — BUT REMEMBER, YOU'VE GOT MORE WEIGHT TO PULL THAN I HAVE.

HEY! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!

COMPLETELY DEVOID OF HUMOUR.

By Anne Kent

IMAGINE a food which will cure your hangover, lower your blood pressure, enlarge your bust and clear up your spots. These are just a few of the many claims being made on behalf of evening primrose oil. (It is also meant to be good for arthritis, premenstrual tension, hyperactive children, schizophrenia, strong nails and diabetes.)

Imagine another food which will protect you against heart disease, relieve your arthritis, cure your migraine... and clear up your spots. These are claims being made on behalf of fish oils — sometimes known as the Omega 3s.

Times have changed since fats were regarded as the dirty, four-letter words of the diet. Instead of avoiding them, we are encouraged to take extra supplies in capsule form, like medicine. For these polyunsaturates are no ordinary oils, but essential fatty acids, vital for our survival.

This is not fringe medicine. These new wonder oils are being marketed by companies such as Boots and Fisons (under the Santogen brand name) as well as a number of well-established vitamin pill manufacturers.

Because the oils are sold as food supplements, no claims are permitted on the packaging and so the producers have to rely on the media to put across the health message.

The most important, alluring part of this message is that these essential fatty acids will both, in their different ways, prevent heart disease — and thus help us to live longer.

Could it be true?

In fact, there is some evidence that both evening primrose oil and the fish oils have some biological effect on humans.

Fatty acids, primrose oil, no quack cure

Enough favourable evidence has been gathered to justify them being licensed as medicines, although their uses are strictly limited. Evening primrose oil can be prescribed as Epogam for the treatment of severe eczema. The Omega 3, Maxepa, may be prescribed for a rare imbalance of the blood fats, hypertriglyceridaemia.

The doses used to treat specific illnesses are often considerably higher than those taken by the general public in the hope of preventing a condition.

This is particularly true in the case of fish oils; a medical dose offers the equivalent of half a pound of salmon a day, compared with just over a quarter of an ounce taken by someone taking an over-the-counter dose.

So how do the oils match up to the claims made on their behalf?

Dr Joe Collier, clinical pharmacologist at St George's Hospital Medical School, says: "It is a shame that so many claims are being made for these oils, because it clouds the fact that they might actually be useful. But it is highly unlikely that any single substance could influence such a wide range of ailments. Similar things were said about ginseng. However, people will buy these things. It seems to be a requirement of humankind to take medicines."

Maurice Hanssen, food writer and author

of *E for Additives*, admits to taking a daily combination of evening primrose oil and fish oil. "Until relatively recently, fish was major food source in this country," he says. "Our diets have completely changed in the last century and I don't think we have had time to adjust to the absence of fish. I believe that the combination of fish oil and evening primrose oil prevents the coagulation of blood platelets, helping to avoid heart attacks."

Controversial.

Dr Wendy Doyle, a research dietician at the Nuffield Laboratories, says: "Most of the work on evening primrose oil is fairly controversial, although it does seem to be effective in treating premenstrual tension. Apart from that, I think it is the fish oils, the Omega 3s, which have proved more positive in the prevention of heart disease, and as an anti-inflammatory agent to treat psoriasis (a skin condition) and rheumatoid arthritis."

However, Doyle says he would not take fish oil herself to prevent heart attacks, and does not advise others to do so. "I would suggest that people eat more fish, particularly fatty fish such as herrings, mackerel, salmon, trout and tuna."

Biochemist Dr Alan Garton is one of the UK's authorities on essential fatty acids. "The research papers into these oils can look promising, and then when someone tries to repeat the work they can't get the same effect," Garton says. "Some of the claims do make sense biochemically. However, what does not apparently make sense is the mixing of evening primrose and fish oils, which can have opposing effects. Another thing which concerns me is that such similar claims are made for each, when in fact they can work in the body in very different ways. Naturally, the public is confused."

A new weapon against cancer

By David Welsh

LONDON, (LPS): Two British patients are the first people in the world to benefit from a new technique against cancer.

A genetically reshaped human monoclonal antibody has been successfully used in them to induce remission in a condition known as non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of cancer of the white blood cells.

The antibody was created by advanced biological engineering techniques described as a molecular genetic tour-de-force, at Britain's Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, eastern England. It combines features of a rat antibody against the disease with a human component that deceives the body's defence mechanisms to prevent its rejection as alien material.

Claimed

These are claimed to be the first cases in which a fully reshaped cross-species antibody, artificially manufactured in the laboratory, has been successfully used in people. The implications for the treatment of many other disorders by extension of this form of technique are believed to be far reaching, and in transplantation it is expected to provide surgeons with one of the most effective anti-rejection methods yet devised.

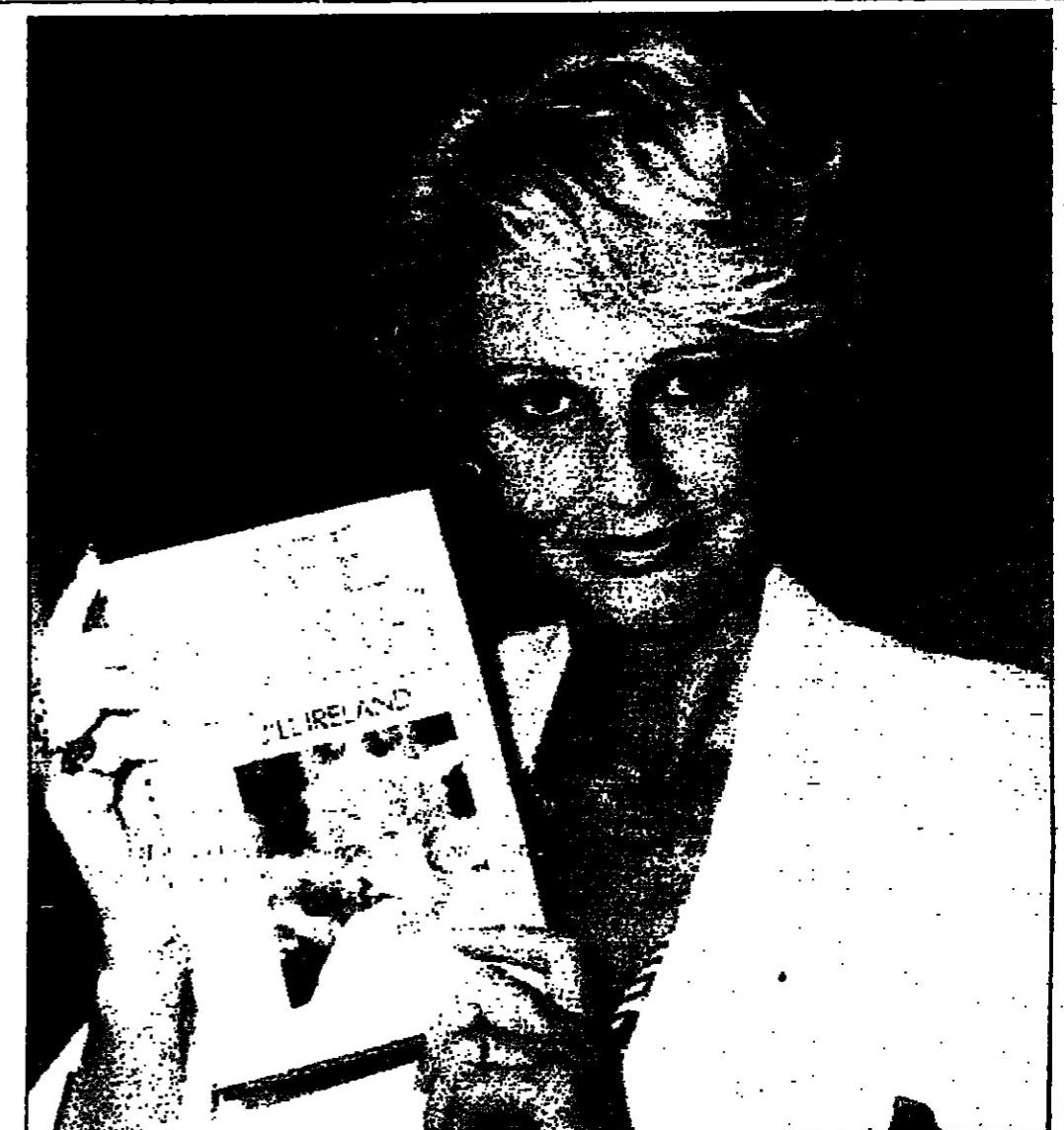
Dr Mike Clark, a blood disease specialist at Cambridge University and member of the research team that helped develop the new therapy, announced that the two patients were in remission. "We are not saying it is a cure," he said, "but all the cancer cells we could see have been destroyed."

He said the effects of the treatment were far superior to those of earlier conventional chemotherapy and radiation therapy, and showed it was possible to clear large numbers of tumor cells with small amounts of antibody.

The new humanised rat antibody, called Campath 1H, is said to have helped the patients' own immune systems to recognise and destroy cancer cells, and their low resistance to infection was also boosted by the treatment carried out at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Plans are in hand for a larger trial to help assess the long-term benefits of the technique.

In 1975 scientists at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology were the first to produce monoclonal antibodies, now often known as "magic bullets" for their ability to seek out and kill specific cancer cells. That development won a Nobel prize for the laboratory's Dr Cesar Milstein.



Actress Jill Ireland, who has fought a brave battle against breast cancer, holds up her book in which she describes her struggle.

Doctors dispute breast cancer treatment

Big C patients in limbo

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI): A disagreement among doctors over how best to treat half of all breast cancer patients has left 70,000 American women with the difficult decision of deciding what course to choose.

"This is another one of the subjects where doctors can't say what you should or should not do for sure," said Dr I. Craig Henderson, a leading breast cancer researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

"If they are going to be truly honest (doctors) have to say, 'I don't know.' There are more unanswered questions than there are answers to questions," said Henderson.

At issue is whether a woman whose breast cancer is detected early — before there is any sign it has spread outside her breast — should receive additional treatment after the tumour has been cut away by surgeon.

The problem is, there is no way to identify for sure which women will fall into that 30 per cent category. And many leading experts believe there is enough evidence to recommend that nearly all women receive the follow-up therapy to reduce the risk for that 30 per cent.

Although the drugs given to such patients can cause nausea, hair loss and other side effects,

they are usually mild enough that these experts believe it is worth it for the insurance of reducing the risk of a recurrence, which is often deadly.

Premature

Others, however, argue it is premature to make a blanket recommendation, especially since none of the studies have demonstrated that women who receive the follow-up therapy actually live longer.

There is promising research that may lead to ways of identifying those women at greatest risk for having a relapse, such as by studying the genes in the cancerous cells or the speed at which they are growing, experts say.

But nearly all the researchers agree that at this point the final decision has to be left up to the patient after she has consulted closely with her doctor.

Many patients may opt to participate in studies aimed at answering some of the unanswered questions.

Two more defeats in Davis Cup Wilander wants to regain number one ranking

VIENNA, April 11. (Reuter): Despite two more Davis Cup defeats at the weekend, Mats Wilander has scoffed suggestions that his tennis career is on the wane.

He insists he is as strongly motivated as ever. He wants to regain the world number one ranking from Ivan Lendl and is basking on a tough programme of physical training to help him do it.

"My appetite for tennis is back. I want to be number one again," the world number two told Reuters during the weekend Davis Cup quarterfinal tie against Austria in Vienna, which Sweden won 3-2.

In 1988, Wilander had the most successful season by anyone on the men's professional tennis circuit for years.

He won three of the four Grand Slams titles — the Australian, French and US Opens — and the International Players' Championship in Key Biscayne, Florida, one of the top non-Grand Slam events.

Final

In addition, he led the Swedes to their sixth consecutive Davis Cup final with two shining semifinal singles triumphs against Frenchmen Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte.

Then everything went wrong. "Mats suffered from shin splints and took a break from tennis after the US Open. He simply has not been getting enough match training," explained his long-time coach and friend, Jonte Sjogren.

One reason for not being match tough is that the Swede

has not survived the early rounds. He has lost nine of his 14 matches since November and has been dethroned in Australia, Key Biscayne and by Lendl in the world ranking.

Defeat

The most stinging defeat was perhaps by lowly Carl-Uwe Steeb in last December's Davis Cup final when Wilander led two sets to one and held match point in the fifth set. Steeb's triumph helped West Germany to a 4-1 victory.

Against Austria, Wilander went down in five sets to Horst Skoff in six hours four minutes which was almost an action replay of the Steeb defeat.

In the final dead singles, after Stefan Edberg had secured a Swedish triumph, a tired and disinterested Wilander lost again — to 106th ranked Alexander Antonitsch.

Despite the apparent continuation of his poor form, Wilander insisted the tie was a step in the right direction.

"The match against Skoff was useful for getting my clay tennis going. I played well. I just need to get back my edge."

"It's going to take some time and a few tough matches to regain last year's form. But I know it will come and that there is a good chance to unseat Ivan."

The road back started after his second round Australian Open loss to India's Ramesh Krishnan in January. He took his South African wife Sonya on a 2,500-km car trip to Australia's outback with the aim of recharging

his batteries and mending the shin splint.

"The break from tennis did a lot of good. The injury is definitely gone now. I felt nothing on the hard surface in Key Biscayne," Wilander said.

In Florida, Wilander went out to Alberto Mancini of Argentina but it was nevertheless the first time he made the third round of a tournament since last autumn.

Sjogren's comeback recipe has included something Wilander, who admits he tends to be lazy, was not used to — hard physical training.

He has undergone weightlifting and workout sessions for several hours a day with American Joe Breedlove, a trainer who used to help Martina Navratilova.

"It's been tougher than I expected, but I feel stronger than before and I thoroughly enjoy working with Breedlove," Wilander said.

Successes

Sjogren is optimistic.

"It's looking better by the day. The clay season is coming up now and Mats should get plenty of match training. Nobody can promise three Grand Slam titles in one year, but I'm certain he will be in the running."

Wilander has come a long way since he won his first French title in Roland Garros at age 17 in 1982 as a monotonous clay baseliner.

At 24 his successes include seven Grand Slam crowns — three French, three Australian and one US — won on clay, grass and hard courts. There are also



Wilander: physical training

three Davis Cup triumphs.

By contrast, Lendl won his very first Grand Slam tournament, in Paris, when he was 24.

The Swede has changed from a shy tennis-only teenager to a self-assured man who enjoys family life in his New York residence, writing poetry, and playing the guitar in private with Rolling Stone friend Keith Richards, as much as tennis.

"I don't have any such plans," he insisted.

"I will have to think about that decision when there's nothing left to play for."

In addition to overtaking Lendl, Wilander is fired up by another goal.

"I want to win Wimbledon, at least once," he said.

Wilander has denied persistent

speculation, especially after he reached his stated goal of becoming number one, that he will follow compatriot and five-time Wimbledon winner Bjorn Borg's example and retire easily from lack of motivation.

"I will have to think about that decision when there's nothing left to play for."

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"I want to win Wimbledon, at least once," he said.

Graf causes many to wonder

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, April 11, (UPI): Steffi Graf, who has dropped but one set in 27 matches this year, has caused many to wonder if anyone can beat the 19-year-old West German.

"I still think it is possible even if it doesn't look like it is the last couple of tournaments," Graf said after dispatching the Soviet Union's Natalia Zvereva 6-1, 6-1 in 55 minutes Sunday at the finals of the Family Circle Cup. "You never know when it could happen, when you're not playing you're best and the other player is going to make super shots."

Graf's mighty forehand is still her deadliest weapon, as it was when she made the 1986 Family Circle Cup her first pro victory.

Power is the key component of her repertoire, relegating matches such as her FCC semifinal against Arantxa Sanchez of Spain to little more than good workouts.

Asked if she wanted to generate even more power in her game, Graf said: "No, I don't need more power. The ball would go through the fence."

Improvement

Despite the rapid improvement of a number of players on the circuit, including Zvereva, Graf said she still sees Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina as her toughest opponent.

"It definitely looks like Gaby so far," Graf said. "She has the power. Zvereva is 17 and still has time to develop physically. If she gets a little bit more power, it's going to be hard."

Sabatini, ranked No. 3 in the world, may get a chance to upset



Graf: number one

Graf this week at the Bausch and Lomb Championship at Amelia Island, Fla. Amelia Island was the site last year of one of Sabatini's two victories over her teenage counterpart.

The two have met once this year in January at the Australian Open where Graf eliminated Sabatini 6-3, 6-0 in the semifinals.

Martina Navratilova, dethroned by Graf as the No. 1 women's player in 1987, says power is not the key to beating the West German.

"A lot of people can beat her," Navratilova said after Zvereva eliminated her in the semifinals 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. "They just don't think they can win. Zvereva

thinks she can win against me and runs down everything. If Steffi hits the same thing, Zvereva thinks I can't get that. That's a great shot."

"Attitude is everything and that's one thing Steffi has over all of us. Everytime she goes out there she thinks she can win."

Zvereva, 17, is the world's second-ranked player.

"It's tough for me to play Steffi mentally," the Soviet Union No. 1 player said. "She's always so strong. Truly, I have not much confidence. Playing Steffi you have to be going for winners. If you're trying to play safely to go die."

Rinaldi and Temesvari win opening round

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, April 11. (Agencies): Kathy Rinaldi and Andrea Temesvari, both coming back after injuries knocked them off the women's tennis tour, won their opening round matches yesterday in the Bausch and Lomb championships.

Rinaldi, who was sidelined for a year with a broken thumb, defeated Ronni Reis 6-2, 6-2 in the first round.

Temesvari, was out for 22 months with ankle and shoulder injuries, beat Pam Casale 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 in a qualifying match to get into the tournament's main draw. She will play Maria Strandlund in today's first match on the stadium court.

Only four seeded players saw

action on the first day of the 300,000-dollar clay-court tournament. There were no upsets.

Ninth-seeded Sandra Cecchini defeated Hale Ciuffo 4-6, 6-0, 6-2. Tenth-seeded Bettina Fulco beat Laura Garrone 6-3 6-2. 13 Isabel Cueto beat Silke Frankl 6-2, 6-1. No. 14 Leila Meshki defeated Hu Na 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Thwarted

Eleventh-seeded Judith Wiesner outlasted Sabrina Goles 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the best match of the day.

The three top seeds — Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova, and Gabriela Sabatini — were scheduled to play their first matches today.

Navratilova, who was thwarted by Natalia Zvereva in her bid

for a showdown with the West German world number one at last week's Hilton Head Island tournament, faces Michelle Torres who defeated fellow American Donna Faber 6-4 6-3.

Graf opens up against American Euse Bargin, a 6-1 7-5 winner over fellow American Katrina Adams. Third-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, last year's losing finalist here, will play compatriot Mercedes Paz who downed Czechoslovak Andrea Holikova 7-6 6-0.

Cecchini started off slow in dropping the first set to Ciuffo. But the Italian found her rhythm and roared back with a vengeance. She ran off nine consecutive games to win the second at love and take a 3-0 lead into the third.

Dane wins

yachting race

ALASSIO, Italy, April 11, (Reuter): Jorgen Landhardtsen of Denmark exploited near-perfect yachting conditions to win the second race of the Finn class world championship yesterday.

Lindhardtsen, 30th in Sunday's opening race, led home 66 finishers in the Bay of Alassio northwest Italy ahead of Italian Enrico Passoni and Lars Bergenzaun of Sweden.

Mexico's Eric Mergenthaler finished 10th to retain his overall lead in the series, in which West German Thomas Schmid is defending his crown.

Marts Caap of Sweden is second overall with Dane Stig Westergaard, the 1987 champion, third.

The series is due to end on Saturday.

Arias survives tie-breaker

HOUSTON, April 11, (AP): Jimmy Arias survived four match points in a third-set tie-breaker yesterday to defeat Richey Reneberg 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 in the first round of the \$200,000 American Capital Invitational at River Oaks Country Club.

With the score tied at 10-10 in the tie-breaker, Arias hit a forehand drop volley winner and followed with a forehand winner off a Reneberg serve for the match at 6-5.

Reneberg, who has been ailing with a foot injury the past six weeks, started aggressively and broke Arias twice to take a 4-0 lead in the first set. But the rest of the set was sloppily played by both with Reneberg holding on for the set.

KAPILU bowling League

Chinese pride wounded by loss of world titles



West German table tennis players Jorg Rosskopf (right) and Steffen Fetzner in jubilation after winning the world title. (Reuter wirephoto)

als, newcomer Qiao Hong was ready to win the battle for the singles crown.

Xu had complained that China faced a shortage of up-and-coming talent, but he was proved wrong by the younger men he left out of the important team matches.

Xu could have learned from the Chinese women's trainer Ma Jing Bao, whose young and almost completely reshaped squad took the team gold, all the doubles medals and everything but silver in the singles.

But Yu became China's only medalist in the men's singles, with a bronze, and beat outgoing world champion Jiang and

Lindh along the way.

Ma made his mark by knocking out European champion Applegren in the third round and Ai Chaojie and Lin Zingang ousted 1987 silver medalist Ilja Lupulescu and Zoran Primorac of Yugoslavia from the doubles.

Sweden were not the only nation waiting to pounce on the Chinese. Hosts West Germany won their first world gold thanks to doubles pair Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner who beat 1987 champions Chen Longcan and Wei Qingguang in the semifinals.

China were not the only

team to be disappointed.

There were many secrets

about China 10 or 20 years ago but now Chinese coaches are in over 30 countries and Chinese players have gone to maybe 30 or 40 countries," said Japan's Ichiro Ogimura, president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and twice world champion in the 1950s.

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World Cup qualifying series

East Germany to meet Turkey

EAST BERLIN, April 11, (Reuters): East Germany plan to draw heavily on Dynamo Dresden's UEFA Cup semifinal team for inspiration when they meet Turkey in tomorrow's World Cup European group three qualifier in Magdeburg.

Dresden, beaten 1-0 by VFB Stuttgart in the away leg of their semifinal, have been a lone bright star in the East German soccer firmament this season and have high hopes of winning the second leg on April 19 to reach the final.

New coach Manfred Zapf has named seven Dresden players in his 17-man squad and hopes their current form and confidence can provide the platform for a victory which would lift East Germany above the Soviet Union and Turkey to the top of the group.

Lead

They are currently third with two points from two matches. The Soviet Union lead with three points from two matches and the Turks are second with three points from three.

Austria and Iceland make up

the five-nation section from which two seats will qualify for the World Cup finals in Italy in 1990.

Confidence and understanding could be the key factors in an evenly-contested match. The Turks, whose champions Galatasaray have reached the semifinals of the European Cup, are already looking beyond Magdeburg to their home encounter with the Soviet Union on May 10.

"This is a long-term marathon and we play each game with the aim of gaining an advantage for the next," said coach Tuncay Tiran. "The team is now well settled and the players believe they will win."

Turkey humiliated East Germany 3-1 last November, a defeat which cost Zapf's predecessor, Bernd Stange, his job and sparked a major reshuffle in East German soccer to help the nation qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1974.

But the upheaval has failed to lift the team and last month they struggled to hold Finland to a 1-1

draw with Dresden's Andreas Trautmann scoring the equalizer.

Zapf has dropped Lokomotive Leipzig's young but off-form Damian Halata and is without two other injured men, but has drafted in Dresden's four-man midfield unit, including experienced international Ralf Minge.

Squads

EST GERMANY: Rene Mueller, Joerg Weissflug, Frank Robde, Ronald Kreer, Matthias Lindner, Andreas Trautmann, Ralf Hauptmann, Sven Koehler, Joerg Stuebner, Matthias Sammer, Ralf Minge, Hans-Uwe Pilz, Dariusz Wosz, Andreas Thom, Thomas Doll, Ulf Kirsten, Marcus Wuckel.

TURKEY: Engin Ipekoglu, Suleyman Kockara, Gokhan Keskin, Recep Cetin, Feyyaz Ucar, Oguz Cetin, Ridvan Dilmen, Hasan Vezir, Gokhan Gedikali, Unal Karahan, Mustafa Yucedag, Erdal Koser, Ugur Tutunceler, Cuneyt Tanman, Semih Yuvalkuran, Tanju Colak, Yusuf Altintas.

UEFA meets to discuss English soccer ban

PALMELA, Portugal, April 11, (AP): Officials of European soccer's governing body arrived here yesterday to decide whether to readmit English clubs to European tournaments next season after a four-year ban.

The Union of European Football Associations' president Jacques Georges said the request by the English Football Association chief executive, Graham Kelly, would be discussed today by UEFA's executive committee and a decision was expected this evening.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Palmela, 40 kms (25 miles)

south of Lisbon, Georges refused to speculate on the outcome of the discussions.

But he repeated his call for British government guarantees on the conduct of English fans abroad.

Guarantees

"We need some engagement from the British government and the English FA before preparing for English clubs' readmission," he said.

"I have spoken to (British sports minister) Colin Moynihan (twice) and he said he cannot give

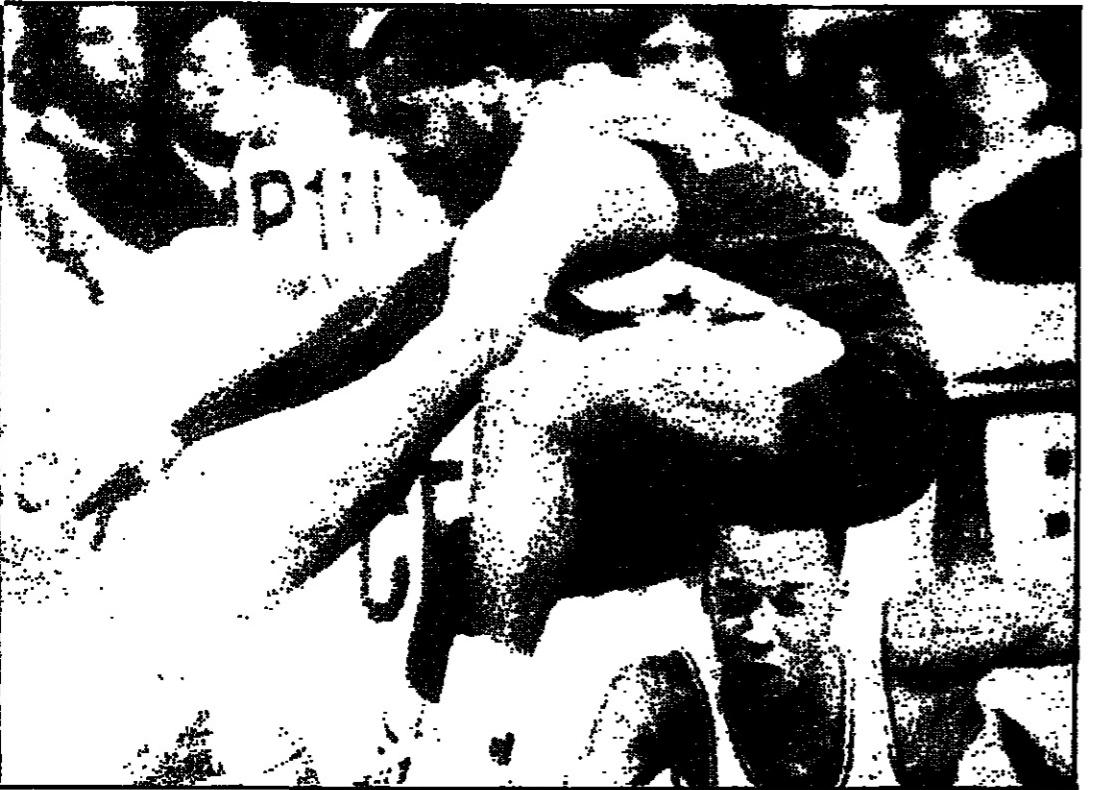
that engagement."

"I cannot imagine the FA (members) can play international matches without the approval of the government," said Georges.

The Palmeira meeting is seen the last chance for English clubs to be readmitted at the time for three major European competitions in the 1989-90 season.

UEFA imposed the indefinite ban after English fans rampaged before the 1985 European Championships' Cup final between Liverpool and Italy's Juventus at Brussels' Heysel stadium, killing 39 people.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Palmela, 40 kms (25 miles)



New Jersey Nets' John Bagley lands on Boston Celtics' Brian Shaw on Sunday as the two battle for a loose ball during second quarter basketball action at Boston Garden. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo – bitter rivals on a world stage

LONDON, April 11, (Reuters): When Sandy Lyle fitted the traditional Masters green jacket on Nick Faldo at Augusta on Sunday, it was more than just the symbolic transfer of a title from one golfer to another.

It was also the latest exchange in a fierce and often bitter rivalry between the two Britons and Ryder Cup colleagues which has existed for more than a decade.

For Faldo and Lyle have been battling to outdo, or at least match, each other since they were thrown together as teammates in an England boys' team in the 1970s.

Rivalry

Their rivalry was born when Lyle won the English Open amateur title in 1975 and Faldo captured the English Closed amateur crown shortly afterwards.

Much to Faldo's chagrin, that pattern of Lyle striking first has continued ever since. The Scot won the British Open in 1985 (two years before Faldo) and then last year, of course, became the first Briton to win the Masters.

Lyle also led the European Order of Merit in 1979 and 1980 — a feat Faldo did not emulate until 1983.

Animosity which may only now be disappearing from their relationship surfaced in 1977 when, during the Kenyan Open, Lyle put a piece of sticking plaster on his putter to counter the grip caused by the reflection of the sun.

It was a breach of the rules and Faldo, without a word to Lyle, reported him to officials. Lyle was duly disqualified.



Sandy Lyle

contrast to Lyle's sunny demeanour and flair for the game.

Muirfield underlined the difference. Lyle's Open triumph in 1985 was highlighted by talented shotmaking while Faldo's final round in 1987 was a masterpiece of dogged determination comprising 18 successive pars as he snatched the title from American Paul Azinger.

Throughout their careers, Faldo has been cast as the villain of the piece, his more dour and enigmatic disposition a stark



Nick Faldo

American tournaments in 1988. Faldo struggled through a dark period on the greens. His putting frequently let him down, no more so than at the US Open last year, where he lost an 18-hole playoff to Curtis Strange.

Lyle rubbed salt into Faldo's wounds by winning their clash in the world match play final last October. Afterwards Lyle couldn't help saying "I like playing Nick" in a manner which left no

doubting why.

Faldo went some way to averting that defeat during the Dunhill Cup team event at St Andrews a week later, the normally phlegmatic Englishman giving an insight into their combative relationship by dancing with delight on the greens after completing victory in their first round match.

Faldo's victory at Augusta has left him and Lyle level with two

Majors each. "I would have liked to be the first Briton to win it, but Sandy beat me to it," Faldo said on Sunday.

Three more Majors remain to be contested this year before Lyle and Faldo team up to lead Europe's defence of the Ryder Cup against the Americans.

Then the pair will resume their private duel for supremacy — a duel likely to run well into the next decade.

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